



R.P.S. NEWSLETTER

RUDGWICK PRESERVATION SOCIETY

SPRING 1993

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Unusually this issue appears after the AGM so I have the opportunity to present the Chairman's report in which I outlined the year's events.

Our membership now stands at 340 against 339 last year. Although we have lost a few members who have moved away, this has been more than compensated for by new members whom we are pleased to welcome.

The Society continues its important task of monitoring planning applications. We feel that our policy of making detailed and considered observations on virtually all applications has helped to curb some of the more unacceptable planning applications that inevitably arise. For example at Freshwoods in Church Street we objected to an application for two large houses to be sited nearer to the road than the existing building line. We felt that the open character of this central part of the village, created by the long frontages of the existing houses, should be maintained.

At last year's AGM two major planning issues were highlighted. A measure of how slowly some of these matters evolve is that one of these is still with us. Lower Lodge Shooting Farm want to extend the hours allowed for shooting (see p2). This was refused by the planning authority but is now subject to appeal. We have contributed towards the Haven Society's fund to enable them to engage expert legal representation to help fight this application. The other issue was Smithers Rough, which was finally resolved, but at great cost, to Horsham District Council, and hence all of us. We wrote to the Chief Executive thanking the Council for being so resolute in dealing with such breaches of planning law.

The Local Plan was produced during the year. This was largely welcomed by us since we have escaped proposals for any large scale development in Rudgwick. Development would be confined to Buckhurst, the land behind that and the site of the Talon Garage. This site would have 41 new houses, including 11 starter homes, off street parking and a play area.

We proposed increasing the number of starter homes to 15 and for 5 of these to be available for rent. We were also concerned that the additional parking should not result in any further restriction of parking in Church Street. The proposal also included provision of play facilities which we welcomed. The part of the plan that we did object to was the proposal to include Bucks Green in the built up area. There was no explanation of why this was proposed and we objected on the grounds that there is no purpose in it and it will result in Bucks Green losing some of the protection it now has under countryside policy.

From April 1st Cox Green became part of the Civil Parish of Rudgwick when the boundary was moved to include Cox Green in West Sussex and consequently in Horsham District. We have a number of members in Cox Green and it removes one anomaly in having to deal with a different County and District authority at the Northern end of the Village. The only anomaly that remains is that Cox Green is not yet in the Church Parish.

One issue of the newsletter was published in the Autumn which was sponsored by Copytec to whom we are grateful for continuing support.

In January we hosted a meeting of the Horsham Group of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies. This included a short business meeting and a talk from Nick Harvey the Rural Transport Adviser of the Sussex Rural Community Council on the problems, particularly since de-regulation, of bus transport for rural communities and the initiatives that HDC are undertaking. (See p2)

The Autumn Meeting was, as usual, extremely well attended. We heard a talk from John Wood of the Wey and Arun Canal Trust on the splendid work that group are doing.

This year our guided walks programme has 11 walks, planned for May, June and July. In the past these have always been well attended and we hope this will continue to be the case. This year's programme is detailed in the Newsletter (p5).

Early in the year we welcomed Hilary Alker who joined the committee to replace Pat Reading.

At our last AGM we approved a change in the constitution to allow the committee to offer honorary life membership to members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Society's work. We have subsequently offered, and they have accepted, honorary life membership to Norman Bassett and Mrs Cecilia Butcher.

My thanks to the President and members of the committee for their support and for the time they have put into the Society's work this year. Finally however I must thank all of you, our members, for continuing to support the work we do and for showing that support by attending our meetings in such large numbers.

Leslie Hawkins

PLANNING MATTERS

LOWER LODGE FARM SHOOTING SCHOOL...Development by Stealth

For those residents who are greatly disturbed by noise and disturbance created by the activities at this establishment, the following is a summary of the planning events of the last 10 years.

February 1982.

Application first made for shooting school met with widespread local opposition.

April 1982

Refusal by Planning Authority. Applicant went to appeal.

February 1983

Appeal heard by written representation.

March 1983

Appeal granted subject to conditions in order to preserve peace and quiet:-

1. 9 - 5 Weekdays only. 2. No more than 2 instructors with 2 pupils each at any one time. 3. No buildings over 3m. high without further planning permission.

August 1987

Retrospective planning permission for:-

1. Retention of open shelter. 2. Skeet towers. 3. "Portacabin" Toilet. 4. Protective fence.

1989

Permission granted for golf driving range subject to new access road to be constructed.

1990

Permission granted on appeal for a nine hole golf course.

November 1990

Permission granted for variation in opening hours of the club house to 9am to midnight, 7 days a week.

October 1991

Application to extend opening hours to 9 - 5am on Saturdays, certain bank holidays and 2 in every 4 Sundays refused. Applicant goes to appeal to the DoE. Appeal is subsequently deferred 4 times and is still outstanding.

February 1992

Variation to original conditions sought to include Saturdays, Bank Holidays and New Years Day. Application withdrawn.

January 1993

Application to relocate trap tower, use of land as sports shooting area, amend hours of use to 9 - 5am Monday to Saturday, and Bank Holidays excluding Christmas day

and Good Friday. This application was recommended by the planning officers for approval, subject to conditions. Application was withdrawn on the day that it was due to be considered by the planning committee.

It is difficult to understand purely from a planning point of view, how it is possible to ignore the conditions laid down by the DoE inspector in allowing the original application on appeal in 1983. The Inspector was concerned to protect the interests of local residents at weekends and this is an undesirable attempt at erosion of planning conditions to which we, and the Haven Preservation Society, strenuously object.

CONCESSIONARY FARES

The Preservation Society hosted a meeting of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies, Horsham District Group, on 20th January. The meeting heard a talk from Nick Harvey, the Rural transport Advisor from the Sussex Rural Community Council. Since de-regulation of bus services there has been a general decline in rural services in West Sussex, as in most other rural areas, as local authority subsidies were withdrawn. West Sussex County Council has funds available to start up new services if these can be run on a voluntary basis. 100% start up money is available for new initiatives but to date the response has been poor. Only four community bus services operate in West Sussex. It is likely that the County Council will reduce the funds available this year unless the take up is improved. This seems unlikely to happen since shifting the onus for running a regular and reliable bus service away from commercial operators to voluntary organisations, is unlikely to be popular - the responsibilities and commitment are simply too great despite the availability of generous funding.

The one way on which local authority funds are likely to be more effective in stimulating the use of local bus services is the availability of concessionary fares. This scheme is apparently not widely understood and is undersubscribed. If you use the bus service from Rudgwick and qualify for a concessionary fare make sure that you get your entitlement.

In summary the Horsham District Concessionary fare scheme operates as follows:-

If you are:-

- A resident over 75 irrespective of income.
- Disabled in receipt of benefits (at any age)
- Man aged 65 to 75 or women aged 60 to 75 in receipt of certain benefits - **The cost is £5 per annum**

If you are:-

- a man aged 65 - 75 or a woman aged 60 - 75 and not in receipt of certain benefits - **The cost is £29.52 per annum**

The pass allows travel at half fare on all local services starting or finishing in West Sussex (Except before 9am Mondays to Fridays)

Further Information can be obtained from HDC on 0403 215100

MURIEL BOXALL 1904 - 1993

The Boxalls have a genius for friendship and Muriel possessed it in no small measure. Although she spent many years of her life working away, her roots were here and when she retired and came to settle at home she enjoyed so many hobbies and interests. Tennis and badminton sadly had to be given up at the ripe old age of 80 but there was much else to be taken in hand with the meticulous efficiency which was her trademark. She was a conscientious Churchwarden; there was the garden to look after and membership of the Ellens Green Gardening Society, NADFAS, the Trefoil Guild and the Friendly Club. She was always ready to help anyone in any capacity and I must mention the beautiful, perfectly made scrap books she made for the 90th birthday cards of an increasing number of friends. Some years ago I was speaking to a friend of the illness of someone and she said as she left me "Don't worry She has a Boxall with her", which, to my mind, sums up the Boxall family. Many people will miss her and her warmheartedness and be grateful for having known her.

Kathleen Watts.

and from the Preservation Society ...

May we add a tribute for the help she gave us researching the past in Rudgwick, which she clearly loved.

The Village had changed dramatically during her lifetime and her recollections of her childhood were fascinating - although for many life was hard with its simple pleasures, they had their moments. Annual Cherry Fair, Flower Shows, a Village Band, Magic Lantern Shows and her father Frank Boxall (the Village Doctor and a great character) presented 'Penny Readings' to a crowded Village Hall.

When researching our old buildings Muriel was always able to add to our work and produced early photographs, many before the first world war.

She was an enthusiastic supporter of our Society, attending all our Spring and Autumn Meetings and we shall miss her. It seemed fitting to reproduce a copy of the Parish Magazine dated June 1904, which she gave me just before she passed away, containing a notice of her baptism.

Stan Smith



Church Hill House - The home of Dr Frank Boxall and his family

The Parish Magazine Advertisement Sheet. JUNE, 1904.

Rudgwick.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

CLERGY :

BENJAMIN JOSEPH DRURY, Vicar.

FRANK R. WILBERFORCE, Assistant Curate.

Messrs. JOHN BOTTING and FREDERICK BARKER, Churchwardens.

Messrs. FRANK BOXALL, EDWIN REEVES, HEATHFIELD YOUNG,
and JOHN BOTTING, jun., Sidesmen.

BAPTISMS.

- May 1. Ada Florence, daughter of James and Annie Francis, The Village.
 " " Eric George, son of George Edward and Eleanor Linfield, Slinfold.
 " 15. Muriel Gertrude, daughter of Frank and Mary Gertrude Boxall,
 Church Hill.
 " " Edith May, daughter of Albert and Mary Ann Muggerridge, The
 Haven.

BURIALS.

- May 18. Florence Drew, The Sanatorium, age unknown.
 " 23. William Morley, Tisman's Common, aged 72 years.
 " " Emily Charman, Baynard's Cottages, Cranleigh, aged 44 years.

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH.—On Sundays, at 11 a.m., 3 p.m.,
 and 6.30 p.m. Administration of Holy Communion on first
 and third Sunday at 8 a.m., on second and fourth at mid-day,
 and on St. Barnabas' Day, special for Mothers' Guild, at 8 a.m.,
 Churchings on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Holy Days at 11 a.m..

Record from the Parish Magazine dated June 1904
 giving notice of Muriel Boxall's Baptism

HIGH SUMMER 1954

By Malcolm Francis

Rudgwick 1954; a hot summer's afternoon. I was whiling away the long summer holiday; at the age of ten there seemed to be countless days to fill up. I decided to go for a ride on my new bicycle; not a mountain bike, just a Raleigh with three speeds -how did we manage ?

The village was very quiet, especially in Lynwick Street, just a distant chugging of an old Fordson tractor working on Greathouse Farm nearby.

I set off past the brickyard, as it was then called; it was on a small site, but was interesting to me to watch the old, rusty, mechanical excavators knawing at the hill that was still topped by dense woodland. There was also a small railway track to transport the clay and 'green' bricks around the site. It was too hot to stop that day, the sun was burning down on the clay.

I cycled to the railway bridge to wait to see the 'up' train, it could be heard puffing out of Rudgwick Station, it was fun to disappear in the smoke and steam as it passed under the parapet climbing to 'the tunnel', a place of mystery and danger to us youngsters, though that's where the best blackberries were found. I passed several old cottages whose orchards, in season, were a constant source of attraction; it was always a slow journey home from school when there were orchards laden with apples.

I arrived at the road junction, the school was in the middle of redecoration by Mr Farley the local builder; long wooden ladders everywhere. A green bus had stopped at the Fox Inn, before crossing the road to reverse into Lynwick Street; that was how the buses were turned in Bucks Green, it always caused concern with passengers who didn't know the route, they thought they had come to the end of the journey.

I cycled past the small greengrocery shop and transport cafe, sited on the corner, on land adjacent to the Fox Inn, where the present bus stop stands. The shop was run by Mr 'Val' Botting; children often bought his penny buns, after school, on their slow walk home.

The steep little hill, on the Loxwood road led me past Clarkes the Butchers, (now the Garden Machinery shop), all the meat was safely in the cold room in the August heat. I then noticed that the tar on the hill was running and sticking to my tyres, so I had to stop and push my bicycle up past the Memorial Club, that had been used as an annexe to the main school, for the infants' class; we all had memories of being taught by Miss Tuff, and looking forward each day to walking in a 'crocodile' to the main school at Bucks Green for school dinner (the food lift in the classroom that doubled as the dining room, always fascinated me).

The road then improved, so I rode lazily towards Tismans Common. Each year a point-to-point was held at Tismans, it always was an exciting day, with many cars and horse boxes choking the access roads, though perhaps today the event wouldn't be welcomed.

I decided to turn back to Bucks Green, and first passed the old 'Regent' Garage, (that was the make of Petrol sold), its wooden buildings always smelled of a cocktail of petrol, tyres and old oil. Opposite Farley's large builders yard, with its many black sheds shimmering in the heat; then passing Rudgwick Garage, which always seemed to have customers with newer cars, I cycled into the recreation field. The old 'Home Guard Hut', which preceded the present hall, looked very old, and with its black bitumastic roof must have been like an oven! There were a couple of my friends idly swinging on the old very rusty swings; the conical roundabout was always fun. I think it was scrapped, later, as being dangerous. My friends decided to head down to the 'Dipple', a pool on the river Arun, to swim; it could be dangerous.

I carried on my ride down the Haven, past the Blue Ship, stopping at a cornfield to watch a large red combine harvester, a new sight, as the days of binders and threshing machines were nearly over. Next I came to the Haven garage, run by Mr Ted Griffin; it always had a lot of very old pre war cars languishing in the woods opposite. The cars must have been there for years, they would have been worth a fortune today! The business had for years a lovely slogan; 'Rattle in, Glide out'.

Mr Griffin was a local councillor, and used to put on a childrens' Christmas party for the village in the Home Guard Hut; it was always popular, especially the film show, usually old 16mm black and white. The building always seemed to be full to bursting!

I decided to turn back to Rudgwick; the Queens Head had several coaches pulled up outside; the adjoining hall was used for special coach parties. I passed Bucks Green Post Office and arrived at Victoria Farm Dairy owned by Mr Davidson; children knew him well as he supplied the school with the third pint bottles of school milk; why did they always seem to be frozen in winter, were the winters colder? The dairy was always cool and dark, with many large fridges, the fruit ice lollies were always delicious. Suitably refreshed I cycled up the road; on the right the garden allotments had many rows of runner beans, though no gardeners were braving the heat.

The station yard, from my vantage point on the bridge, looked deserted, except for one lone coal truck being unloaded; the trucks had to be manhandled, the siding did have a small turntable; once a truck escaped, rolling some way down the incline towards Slinfold.

Station Garage, run by the Laudet brothers, Maurice and Marcel, had a few cars in the fifties. The Laudets had 'wolf whistles' fitted to their own cars, which always caused a laugh if they sped by.

An adjacent building housed a small carpentry business; outside, a large wooden dingy gave a nautical touch.

The Martlett Hotel, with its large dusty forecourt, appeared not to have any visitors that afternoon. I stopped opposite to lean on the five bar gate at the entrance to the grassy track that led down to the isolated 'Thurn Cottages'. On the left, there was some disused land that was to be the site of a new village hall; the Bucks Green site was chosen in

preference, so two new houses were built later.

I slowly pedalled up the street past 'Flemings' the newsagents; a favourite haunt for all the children spending their pocket money. Church Hill was climbed, that was always a test of one's stamina, but then I couldn't resist the thought of an ice cream from Humphreys, the grocers next to the Kings Head. The steep entrance steps gained access to the shop and adjoining Post Office, both fronted large plate glass windows installed in the twenties before the days of strict planning

"The Martlett Hotel , with its large dusty forecourt appeared not to have any visitors that afternoon..."



Rudgwick, Sussex.

regulations. The shop had a lovely smell, now missing in these days of excessive packaging; a mixture of ground coffee, cheeses and fresh bacon. As a small boy it was always fun to stamp on the many bubbles in an old rubber floor covering, and peer into the large black three-legged paraffin stove that heated the shop, and wonder what was in the large black containers on the high shelves.

The shop stocked a lot of items, now found in larger delicatessens, that were rare in the fifties; though as a ten year old I just wanted an ice cream!

Just past the shop, at the top of the hill, was the old red telephone box; it always seemed larger than normal, with its large 'A' and 'B' buttons,... just an illusion to a small boy.

On the right I could see cattle in the stockyard of Dukes Farm, standing in the deep shadows of the low tiled roof, they were agitated by the ever present flies.

It was time to turn down into the shade of Lynwick Street and freewheel home.

GUIDED WALKS FOR ALL THE FAMILY IN RUDGWICK

We have a full programme of guided walks for 1993 sponsored by the West Sussex County Council. The following is a list of eleven walks, the dates and names of leaders. For times, start points and other details see the booklets published by the WSCC, available from Mrs Butcher at the Post Office, or the Mobile Library.

All our walks in Rudgwick may be regarded as a gentle stroll and stewards will be available to help with stiles. Do come and enjoy the lovely countryside in good company.

11th May	Dave Buckley	RPC
18th May	Paul Frenchum	RPS
25th May	Judy and Michael Knights	RPS
1st June	Brian Murgatroyd	HPS
8th June	Wendy Bourne	RPS
15th June	Geoff Ayres	RPS
22nd June	Stan Smith	RPS
29th June	Malcolm Francis	RPS
6th July	John Parker	RPS
13th July	Bridget Pusey	RPS
21st July	Geoff Ayres	RPS

TIMBER FRAMED HOUSES IN RUDGWICK

By Stan Smith

At our AGM on Monday April 26th, Diana Chatwin presented an illustrated talk on these priceless old buildings.

A well attended meeting was given an excellent introduction into the evolution of timber-framing over the centuries and a glimpse of many houses we know so well; but through the eyes of an expert.

For the record the study of timber framed buildings in our Parish commenced at Bignor Farmhouse in September 1988.

72 buildings have been completed to date and now that Cox Green has become part of Rudgwick there are now about half a dozen to be recorded to complete the survey.

This remarkable undertaking will have taken 5 years to complete, we are indebted to Diana in producing a permanent record of our historic past of great importance. This represents a fine piece of research, requiring considerable dedication, and although my role was mostly to hold the end of a tape measure and helping Diana gain access into dusty, dirty old lofts, she has taught me to appreciate these marvellous old buildings.

We were particularly pleased to see Cecilia Butcher at the meeting as Woes House was presented in some detail, and Geoffrey and Muriel Humphrey as Church Gate House was also discussed. These two buildings are among the oldest in Rudgwick, and are associated with the Parish Church, the only Grade 1 listed building in the Parish.

It is our hope that when completed these recordings can be published and made available to everyone. This will need some fund raising although we have an Hon. Treasurer who is rather good at that.

We are grateful to all those owners who gave us access to their homes, but unfortunately there were one or two refusals. Of course, they are perfectly entitled to do this, but I cannot resist quoting the words of William Morris, founder of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in his manifesto written over 100 years ago.

"It has been most truly said that these old buildings do not belong to us only: that they belonged to our forefathers and they will belong to our descendants unless we play them false. They are not in any sense our property, to do as we like with them. We are only trustees for those that come after us."

WHAT ABOUT OUR IVY ?

By Geoff Ayres

The common English Ivy, *Hedera helix*, is a sadly misunderstood and mistreated plant. It is not a parasite. When climbing it clings with modified roots which do not penetrate the support at all. Anyone who has tried to use ivy as a handhold while climbing will have discovered this the hard way. There is a misguided practice, common in Rudgwick, of cutting through the trunks of old ivy. This is of

no benefit to the tree and is destructive of a great deal of wildlife.

The plant has two distinct forms. While growing along the ground the ivy has the characteristic palmate leaves and produces roots at regular intervals. When a vertical surface such as a tree trunk is encountered the stem flattens and the supporting roots are produced. These roots are stimulated by the darkness between the ivy and support. The plant now climbs at about 30cm. a year. After about 10 years of climbing a new phase occurs. The plant has now risen to height of approximately 3 metres and until this stage has kept itself within shaded areas. The ivy now changes completely. Horizontal branches are produced which sprout leaves with an entirely different shape. These leaves are undivided and are either boat shaped or heart shaped. At the ends of the branches clusters of white flowers are produced in October and November, followed by the black berries. The plant now seeks the light, growing outwards and upwards, creating ideal nesting sites and



evergreen cover for overwintering birds, butterflies and insects. The Holly Blue butterfly relies upon this stage of the ivy. The summer brood lays its eggs on the flower buds. The insects produced in the following spring lay their eggs in the buds of the Holly flowers. In certain years, when conditions are suitable, large numbers of these little blue butterflies are to be seen in the gardens of Rudgwick.

An extraordinary characteristic of the Ivy is that if a cutting is taken from the mature flowering part of the plant, it will grow as a shrub, producing both flowers and berries. This never happens naturally, so if you see Ivy flowering at ground level it usually indicates that the original support has collapsed. In Church Street the replacement of telegraph poles has brought down flowering branches into hedges.

Similarly, Holly grown from a cutting taken from a mature specimen above 3 metres, where the leaves are not spiny, will flower and fruit while small. Native Beech cuttings, on the other hand, taken above 3 metres will not retain their leaves through the winter.