



## Chairman's Report

Our new **website** should be up and running by the AGM, as promised. It is already looking good, and has much more information, more photos and opportunities to support the society than the present one. The name of the site may or may not be the same as the old one. As we have not gone 'live' at the time of going to press, please find us at the present address, or 'google' us if you are eager to see it! My thanks go to Helen Leech for helping us to get the website going.

Much effort has gone into fighting two **traveller/gypsy planning applications** in Rudgwick over the last few months. These frankly came out of left field, as Rudgwick hoped it had seen the last of such possibilities when Smithers Rough was no longer in the frame. Both new sites are totally unsuitable, of course, but that never stopped anyone trying. In each case the land is now owned by traveller families. One site in Tismans Common has been refused by HDC, the other at Sussex Topiary on Naldretts Lane was initially recommended for approval by HDC planning officers, but refused by the councillors. Both are likely to go to appeal, and both have experienced agents who handle these cases all over the country. As with any development, the lack of a Local Plan for Horsham increases our vulnerability. RPS always considers the planning merits of developments, large or small. We do not oppose on emotive grounds.

You may have noted that Rudgwick is one of the few local councils in both counties not to have begun to create a (voluntary) **Neighbourhood Plan**. RPS wrote to the parish council asking them to explain what their thoughts are, and we were duly enlightened at the Parish Meeting. However, the idea is firmly in the long grass as

far as RPC are concerned. Nothing can proceed without their leadership, and their/our cash. Just as we supported and took an active part in the preparation of a Parish Plan and a Design Statement, so we hope to be part of any discussion regarding future planning for our area. Almost all surrounding parishes are engaged in this, so it is not an exaggeration to say we could actually end up more vulnerable to circling predatory developers, out to bid for sites (RPC seem to believe the opposite). Again, we badly need that Horsham Local Plan (on this we agree with RPC), still a year or two away. As Vanessa Sanderson wrote in the last Newsletter, we need to plan for affordable housing in Rudgwick, even if that means we also have some market housing. To be a viable community, do we want or need more housing, and if so, where? In preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, YOU would get to vote in a referendum before whatever we chose to include became policy.

RPC announced at the Parish Meeting that they have been approached by a local developer who wishes to build an unknown number of houses, with about a third affordable, on the **land east of Woodfalls** on Loxwood Road. This patch of land is just outside our village built-up area. It is now cleared of timber. The developer intends to organise a parish meeting/viewing of the proposal in April. I urge you to attend, and to write in, for or against, to HDC when the time comes.

I can report on some progress at the **Pig Farm**. Not that you would have noticed it yet, but HDC now demand that this 'untidy site' (their words – who would have known) be cleansed of its metal fencing, gates and dilapidated timber panel fencing (south and east boundaries), all lorry

backs and horse boxes, the timber-framed structure next to the gates. This takes effect from 4<sup>th</sup> April, with a 2 month compliance period. If this is not complied with on time, please can as many of you as possible complain on or after 4<sup>th</sup> June to Joanna Searle

[Joanna.Searle@horsham.gov.uk], Planning Compliance Officer, quoting EN/11/0370. The question will be whether HDC have the means to fight this to the end. This is only one step, but it should be welcomed.

Another welcome sign is the arrival of an early Spring after the shocking conditions of the Winter. There must be more trees down in Rudgwick than any time since October 1987, and we are in the belt of maximum rainfall on maps seen in the press. My spy in Tismans Common tells me he had 188mm in December, 249 in January and 159 in February, **596mm** in total for the three Winter months. In an average year, we might expect in the region of 170mm. Many more such Winter monsoons, and we will have to get our potholes properly mended, perish the thought. To celebrate the onset of another glorious Summer, like last year's, **RPS AGM** has a talk about the butterflies and moths of Sussex. It is about time we returned to a natural environment theme, and 2013 was a vintage one for the winged beauties. Please do come, and enjoy the evening. I also hope to see many of you on the **walks** this Summer, hoping and expecting my fitness to return.

## Now is the time to pay your subscription!

Subs for 2014 are now due on 1<sup>st</sup> January, with a window of grace to the AGM - you can't say fairer than that.

If you pay by Standing Order, read no further. Please consider doing so if not yet arranged.

Your sub pays for this Newsletter, and printing costs are rising. Please be fair to us by ensuring you pay on time. Two non-payments = membership and Newsletter delivery cancelled. We value your support.

Treasurer contacts: 01403 822522, derigby@btinternet.com.

# Planning Matters

**Vanessa Sanderson**

## Neighbourhood Planning Policy

Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and allows communities to create a vision and planning policies for the use and development of land within a defined geographical area.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is a plan that can set out where development will go and what it could look like in a particular area. It is not a tool to prevent or resist development that is planned. The production of an NDP would be led by a Parish Council or a recognised Neighbourhood Forum in un-parished areas, with the involvement of local residents, businesses, voluntary and community organisations, faith groups, schools etc.

The Government had two goals for Neighbourhood Planning: the first is that local people will have more influence over where development can go and how it might look: the second is that neighbourhoods will be more welcoming of development because of a sense of ownership and from financial incentives such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Local Communities that get involved in Neighbourhood Plans and whose community put them to the vote will be given 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy to spend on infrastructure of their choosing. Those groups not producing a Neighbourhood Plan or where there is no referendum following preparation of the plan, will receive 15% of the CIL when planning permission for development is approved.

Horsham District Council is encouraging Neighbourhood Development Plans in various ways including holding awareness raising and training events some of which have already taken place for Parish Councils. There are various formal stages for each Neighbourhood Plan to go through; the initial work of gathering evidence and engaging with the community can start immediately. Once prepared the Plan will need to be independently examined and put to a local referendum. If more than 50% of people voting in the election say yes then the Council must adopt the Plan as part of the Horsham District Planning Framework.

The benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan are that it is led and owned by the community. A number of parishes within the Horsham District have applied to register their area for the purpose of developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan and public consultations on these have finished. There have been additional expressions of interest from a number of other parish councils who wish to go down the same path. HDC have a legal duty to support Parish Councils who decide to proceed with an NP but not to write it for them.

However, it is voluntary and the production of an NP is undoubtedly a major opportunity but the advantages should be weighed against the time and cost implications. There are alternatives to producing an NP such as parish plans and design statements although these do not have the legal weight of an NP. As many will be aware this Parish have already produced a Parish Plan (2006) and Design Statement (2009) which could be updated and these can be found on the Parish Council website. Rudgwick Parish Council has advised that it is currently considering the options and will advise of their decision in due course.

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# Missing in Rudgwick

Malcolm Francis

Quite a few years ago there was a large bungalow called Freshwoods, on Church Street. The small development on that site carries on the name. The owner of Freshwoods for many years was Betty Armstrong. She occasionally had paying guests to stay; some of whom were parents of students that attended the Rikkyo Japanese school, located within the parish and established in Rudgwick in the 1970's.

A very strange incident happened on an icy cold day when some Japanese guests arrived at Freshwoods. The parents were having an evening meal after their arrival from Heathrow airport, and had with them a younger son, who had come to visit his brother at the school. It seems that the Japanese father, who must have been rather strict, told his younger son to behave properly at the table, and there was a major upset between father and son that caused the little boy to run out of the room and then out of the house, with the intention, found out later on, that he was going back to Heathrow !

The boy was dressed only in short trousers and a shirt, and there was a hard frost forecast for that night. When the parents could not find their son in the garden, Mrs Armstrong called the police as it was realised that the boy was really missing. The local

policeman in those days was John Slater who quickly instigated a village search. It was a December day and the light was failing with a little snow on the ground. Quickly extra police were brought in and a control point set up in a room at Freshwoods with a map produced to see the areas to be searched. A lot of us locals were asked to help and we were all given sectors to search. We were advised that we could ask door to door up until 10 pm when the police said they would then have to take over completely the house and garden search.

My sector to search was the woodland that backs onto Furze Road and the hangar that runs towards Lynwick Street . One realised how difficult it is to search for a little child in woodland after dark when there were patches of shadow that could easily have been a small injured child . There was the fear that the boy was at risk of suffering from hypothermia. Eventually the boy was seen hiding near a garden shed off Church Street by a very sharp eyed policeman. I must admit that even though I and a small group had been only searching for about three hours it was a very exhausting experience, as one felt so responsible for the child's safety. I wonder what the boy's punishment was for his attempt to get back to Japan.

# Arun Bank becomes Rudgwick Grange -

Development of Horticulture in Tismans Common to the Post-War Period

## Roger Nash

The first article on the history of fruit farming and market gardening in the Arundene Lane area of Tismans Common took the story of Kingsfold Farm (Arun Bank), tucked away by the River Arun, through various owners and its gentrification in the 1860 to 1900 period. (*RPS Newsletter, Autumn 2013*). By 1890, the Arun Bank estate was being split up into new holdings along Arundene Lane by the then owner, Christopher Walker, whose portrait appeared in the first article. Walker had moved to Potters Bar. This article picks up the story at the turn of the new century, the Edwardian era.

In 1901, Walker's lease of Arun Bank Farm to Henry Adams was surrendered (and in 1902 that of William Hoare to the Fruit Farm). Christopher Walker, one time Halifax wool miller, had now decided that, having made over all the other parcels of land to new owners, he could sell Arun Bank house and its remaining farmland. The now reduced estate came briefly into the ownership of **Captain Lambert Larking** who seems to have stretched himself financially to judge by the documents recording his mortgage history, even borrowing from Christopher Walker. He sold up in 1904 to **Charles Morgan**, the deeds making it clear the fruit farm was included in the sale.

## Rudgwick Grange

In 1908, Morgan sold 111 acres for £5,750 to the next significant player in the history of the property, **Mrs Jeanne Madeleine Goodridge** (née Miesegaes), wife of Rear Admiral Walter Somerville Goodridge, who had spent much of his celebrated career, which commenced in 1862, in the east as Director of the Royal Indian Marine (participating in action in South Africa, China and Somaliland). Goodridge was fluent in several languages – "Hindustani, Persian, Arabic and Swahili" (from his obituary). He was appointed C.I.E. (Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire) in 1901, retiring in 1904, and was later a JP for Sussex. The family sold his dress medals at auction in 1992 for £460. He had a long obituary in *The Times* but it is of no help in understanding his time in Rudgwick! During his service in the East, he met his Dutch East Indian wife whose family wealth provided him with a home and, as we shall see, an energetic retirement.

On the 1912 OS map (page 6) the small house or bungalow, Arun Cottage, is shown enlarged, probably by Goodridge, perhaps looking much the same from the front as today, and in 1911 was let to retired Major Claude FitzHenry and his family. It would later be associated with the Fruit Farm. The smithy (Farriers) had now closed for ever, the Sands family having



**Above: Admiral W S Goodridge, CIE, about 1901, in the uniform of Commander of the Royal Indian Marine**

moved by 1911 to a farm near Cuckfield. Two trees in the front garden still had metal rings attached, where the horses were tied up, in recent years, but they have since been cut down. The Admiral's fruit growing second career can be pieced together

from directories and *The Times* Archive. With considerable drive and initiative (he was already about 60), he established **Rudgwick Fruit Farm and School** at what he re-named Rudgwick Grange. He and Alfred Wallis, his manager, with Arthur Bohannan, and Sydney Novell, a lodger, market gardeners, substantially enlarged the orchards (35 acres are noted in a 1915 directory) and associated glasshouse cultivation. The OS map of 1912 had shown a little over 15 acres on his land. Wallis and Bohannan each lived in one of the cottages at Rolls Farm. Arun Cottage itself did not become part of the fruit farm until after 1911. Goodridge's students were destined for the colonies, taking their skills to the Empire. He also sold Cox's apples nationwide by post.

In 1912, orchards stretched unbroken, except by glasshouses, across the landscape from the Cricketers (Mucky Duck) to Rudgwick Grange. Had those independent small businesses become in some way associated with Goodridge's School, or were they all participating in a local boom in orchard fruit? If the majority of the other orchards were included, a total of 35 acres could be achieved, an intriguing conundrum, suggesting co-operative neighbours! Equally, who were the men and women who worked in the various orchards and glasshouses? There must have been considerable seasonal work to be had locally at

harvest time. Much as it would be good to have more details of the Goodridge's time at the Grange, there are no sources to hand, and fascinating to know more about this unique venture, and of the man behind it.

**The 1911 census**, backed up by a directory of that year, and the 1912 edition of the Ordnance Survey map, not only has Goodridge's family at the newly named Grange, and a fruit farm and school in operation, but also shows change and continuity in the smaller enterprises: the Dahse family were still at **Arundene**, but curiously it was now run by Steven's elderly German father, Julius. John Street had been joined by John Lambert, next door at **Strawberry Gardens**. However, at **Sunnyside**, John Holland had installed the Hearsom brothers, George (already a market gardener in Richmond-on-Thames), Jack and Sidney, either as tenants or lessees. Intriguingly, a resident of Bucks Green described himself as a "Nurseryman Improver" and several other market garden workers lived in Tismans Common.

## Sunnyside

The war soon followed and with it some changes. George Hearsom, now married to Edith, and living at 4 High View Villas, Tismans Common, joined the Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment in 1917, assigned to the 122<sup>nd</sup> Labour Corps. Holland returned to Sunnyside about this time on his own account until the early 1920s (which makes me think he still owned it). In 1920, George Hearsom was still living in High View Villas when he received his service medal. It can be assumed he returned to his old line of work because he made a reappearance in the 1934 and 38 directories alongside James Crisp. By 1939, the couple had retired to Spring Cottage, Tismans Common where they stayed until the late 1940s. His brother Jack was at Greenways in the 1950s and 60s. Sidney seems to have moved away.

John Holland died in 1921, and was succeeded on the 3 acre site, certainly by 1925, by **James Crisp**. Holland had started as a porter, then become a self-employed salesman at the Columbia Road flower market in Farringdon, which still fascinates locals and visitors alike to this day, so Rudgwick produce had a direct sales outlet in east London for many years. Crisp on the other hand had a second nursery in Mitcham, which he had from 1910, and where several sons also worked. His early experience was as a florist, becoming a foreman, in Essex. The Rudgwick business was in the telephone book by 1933. It is difficult to imagine how a business like this survived before, but clearly they did! Descendants of James Crisp still own the Rudgwick nursery today. James himself died in 1941. He was succeeded by his son John, trading as **JE Crisp and Sons**, Nurserymen. I understand the orchards were still in production to at least the 1950s. The glasshouses mainly produced pot plants. John built the modern house 'Ilex' on adjacent land he owned in the 1970s. He died in 1989. He had previously lived in a small wooden house closer to the glasshouses.

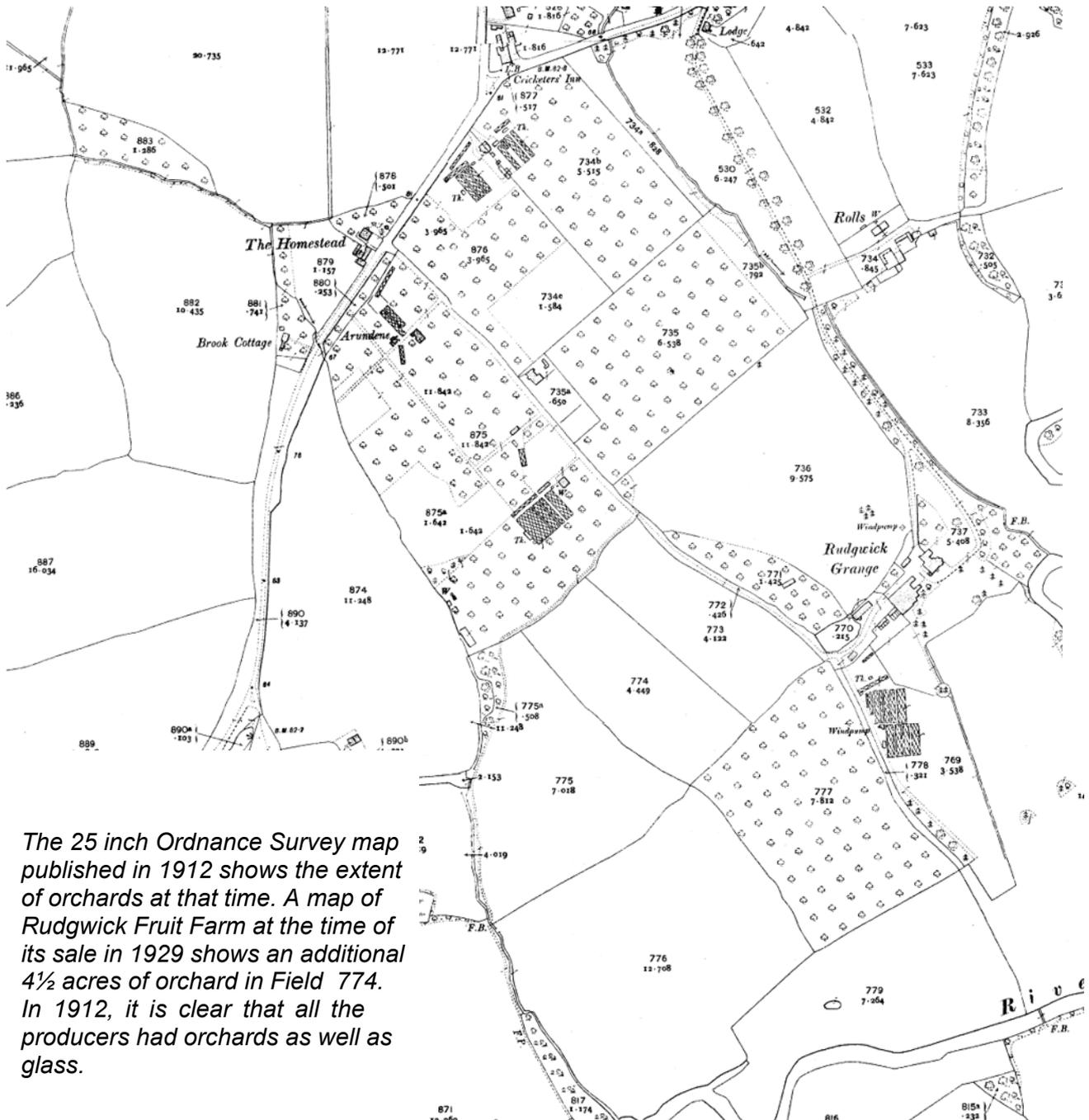
## Snowdrift and Strawberry Gardens

"**Street and Lambert**" became business partners opposite the Mucky Duck from 1903 to 1915, John Street had his two eldest sons, Phillip and Wilfred working for him in 1911. John Lambert had his father, who had himself kept a nursery in Shamley Green, on hand to help and advise in 1911. Lambert was unmarried. He continued in business to the 1930s, but Street, several years older, retired, probably about 1917, as the partnership is not named thereafter, though in communication with a descendent of his brother Fred in Australia, her family think he worked on later than this. Street who lived at Snowdrift, may have leased his land to **Alfred Long & Sons** who are described in directories from 1918 to 1955 at "Snowdrift Fruit Farm". By the 1950s there were two brothers, most likely Alfred's sons. Street and Lambert both died in 1932, Alfred Long in 1957. Street's brother Fred was the village carrier, and a grower in his own right on his land behind The Riddens (several of which he built, living at No1). Harry, another brother, kept the Post Office Stores at Bucks Green with their sister, Annie. The Streets came from Shamley Green. Fred was a stalwart of the Plymouth Brethren.

Their families sold the nurseries and orchards (where the wind pump skeleton still stands) to **Sydney Stevens** in 1935. By this time, the deeds make clear, John Street's son, Alec John Street, and John Lambert's sister and housekeeper, Clara Jane, were the vendors. Stevens had suffered much damage to his glasshouses in the 1958 hailstorm. (*See box insert page 7*). His telephone entries refer to his address as "The Gardens", and "nurseryman" (though in Yellow Pages he is a florist) from 1951. Stevens owned all the land until he sold Snowdrift, one of the two semi-detached houses, to Mr ED Smart, a bus driver turned nurseryman, in the early 1960s. In 1964, he sold most of the land to Bill Wait, who renamed it Barnsfold Nurseries. Wait, who had worked for Crisps at Sunnyside, first set out his stall selling produce locally in a small way. In 1965, Stevens sold a frontage plot on Arundene Lane to Alan Haines of Rudgwick Fruit Farm (land which is now part of Barnsfold). Stevens however, though listed as nurseryman at The Gardens until his death in 1984, had not worked for many years, not since the 1960s. He had started with salads and sweet peas, but latterly had used his skills as a florist, flower arranging, wreaths, etc., with flowers bought in.

## Arundene

The Dahse family, growers at the entrance to Arundene Lane, did not outlast the death of Julius in 1912, and were succeeded briefly by a Mr B. Beale. In 1921 **Cooper Brothers** took over, giving the holding its modern name of Arundene Orchards (the plural now removed). The business was later carried on by just one of the brothers, Mr E. A. Cooper. He remained until the late 1940s. He was succeeded by Wilf Robinson. Stan Turner remembers working for him in the early 1950s, just the two of them. It was a small nursery with just a few glasshouses, some



*The 25 inch Ordnance Survey map published in 1912 shows the extent of orchards at that time. A map of Rudgwick Fruit Farm at the time of its sale in 1929 shows an additional 4½ acres of orchard in Field 774. In 1912, it is clear that all the producers had orchards as well as glass.*

unproductive orchard. Mrs Robinson had a shop in the Bishopric in Horsham where much of the produce was sold; other outlets were local shops and retail to local callers. The seasons were rather more important than today, with tomatoes and cucumbers, apples, bedding plants and pot plants. Some of the year, there was little to harvest.

A new book on apple growing in Sussex has numerous maps. The only reference to Rudgwick in the index refers without attribution to the frequency of "apple lofts" in property in Rudgwick and Billingshurst in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when cider orchards were common. They were still common on the Tithe map in 1840 – in fact almost every farm had one. Today I have only spotted two remaining ones, at Garlands and at Hatches. Sadly, a more recent orchard at

Summerfold, although listed as a national traditional orchard at the time, has recently been felled by a potential developer. There were just three fruit growers in Rudgwick in 1922, presumably all in Arundene area. In comparison with the rest of Sussex, Rudgwick was a fairly insignificant player. The main fruit growing areas were in and around Chidham, Pulborough, Lindfield and Newick. (see table page 7).

### **Rudgwick Grange, Sale and After**

The Goodridge's eldest daughter, Madeleine, married Sydney Kekewich in 1916. An insight into the Goodridge circle of relatives and friends is provided by The Times report of the marriage of Rachel, younger of their two daughters, in 1926, to the son of Sir Robert and Lady Lighton of Hereford, at which an impressive line up of titled, military and other guests attended.

**MAFF Annual Agricultural Census, the " June Returns", by Parish, selected years**

	% of total crop and grass acreage in fruit		
	Rudgwick	Kirdford	
1873	0.1 - 0.5	0.1 - 0.5	In 1873 and 1907, Lower Beeding stood out as significant
1907	0.5 - 1.0	0.1 - 0.5	
1923	0.5 - 1.0	0.5 - 1.0	Fruit growing began in Kirdford in 1925
1939	1.1 - 2.0	5.0 - 10.0	
1950	1.1 - 2.0	10.0 - 15.0	Kirdford Growers co-operative reached its peak after the war
1980	0.0 - 0.5	1.0 - 2.0	

*Note: This data shows that the orchard peak in Rudgwick was after Admiral Goodridge's death. However, it does not state productivity of the orchards, merely land utilisation. It seems likely both the Fruit Farm and the smaller enterprises kept their orchards into the 1950s or later, but that the industry had arrived at terminal decline by the 1970s. Source: Apples and Orchards in Sussex, Brian Short et al, 2012*

Deeds show there was no change in the acreage of Rudgwick Grange Farm. On the death of Admiral Goodridge 2 April 1929 at the age of 80, his wife sold the house and all 111 acres to Cyril Stern of Wimbledon the same month. Mysteriously, and in haste, on the same day as her husband died, the sale of "remaining furniture, having already sold the property" (an exchange of contracts perhaps) was advertised in The Times to take place at auction on 15/16 April. In fact the conveyance of the Grange took place on 17 April, the purchaser being Cyril Edmund Stern Esq of Calumet, The Downs, Wimbledon, Esq., for £6500. Was Stern known to her, a solicitor perhaps? Stern's rapid disposal of the Grange, and separately the fruit farm, first advertised on 24 July, sold 28 November, suggests he acted as a go-between. Bear in mind the property was hers alone to disposal of as she saw fit, but why the haste?

The reduced 54½ acre farm (including a further 2½ acres of orchard), and the house was sold by Stern to J Ivan Spens. The size of the farm had been further reduced by the separate sale of 30 acres in four fields abutting Exfold Farm as "Rolls Farm", though the cottages of that name went to Spens. Mrs Goodridge moved to London, announcing she was living in Ennismore Gardens, SW7, in January 1930. The

disposed of her superior household effects, some of which had clearly come from their days in the East, included their 1927 Austin Saloon Landaulete and an old London omnibus, which had once run between Baker St and Victoria Station. The funeral was held in Rudgwick, but burial was in Kensal Green. Given the events of 1929 on the world's stock exchanges, one is tempted to find a connection to the hasty departure of Mrs Goodridge, but the crash was not until October. She died in London in 1949.

The new owner of Rudgwick Grange, **J. Ivan Spens, OBE**, was another Glaswegian Scot (the first having been Daniel Mackenzie who renamed Kingsfold as Arun Bank in 1870). He spent much of his career overseas, and was Senior Partner in Brown, Fleming & Murray of Glasgow and London, as well as holder of

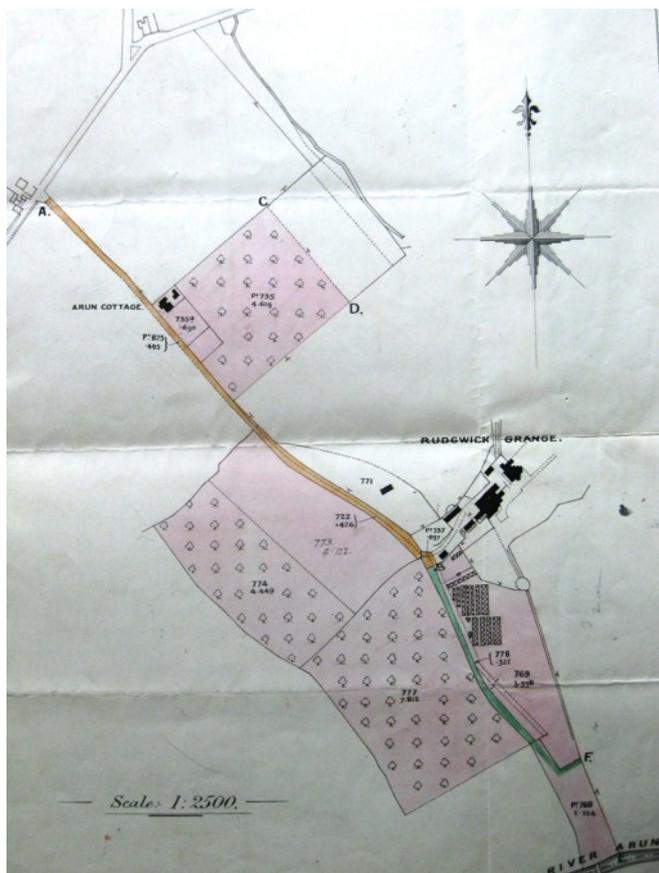
**The 1958 Hailstorm**

One catastrophic event was able to bring all the occupants of the nurseries to their knees. On 5 September 1958, a record breaking hailstorm, with accompanying localised tornadoes, hit the Horsham area, putting the town in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest hailstones ever to fall in Britain (40-70mm, one weighing 191 grams). To compare the hail size to an everyday object, the hail was roughly somewhere in between the size of a hen's egg and a cricket ball. The storm covered a wide area, and Tismans Common was devastated. Almost all the glass in the Arundene area was destroyed that evening. The event led to research which developed the idea of supercell storms. The storm developed over the Isle of Wight, but intensified close to West Wittering, West Sussex, and travelled northeastwards, affecting Horsham around 6.30pm in the evening. A tornado damaged a hangar at Gatwick Airport. The main Brighton line was completely blocked by a fall of chalk between Coulsdon North and Earlswood. Trains were diverted via Redhill, but were further delayed by a fallen tree on the line near Horley. Southend-on-Sea was cut off by rail from London. There were reports of widespread damage to telephone cables from all parts of London. Two fuel oil storage tanks at Kent Oil Refinery, Isle of Grain, were struck by lightning and burst into flames. 7,000 consumers in the Petworth area were without electricity. 3,000 lightning strikes were 'counted' during the storm as it passed over London. The storm died later in the evening close to Maldon, Essex.

Apparently it was one of the localised tornadoes that did for the glasshouses in Tismans Common. The Hornshill area had no storm or hail, yet across Hale and Arundene the devastation was both huge and frightening. Many windows were broken at Hale farmhouse.

several directorships (as stated in thepeerage.com), including United Steel of Sheffield. He lived in Rudgwick until 1946, when **Mrs Helen Naumann** bought it for £14,000. The Naumanns were involved in a lot of property investments, one such being the purchase of The Redhouse from farmer Henry Ireland in 1952 (sold again 1957). She was widowed (1946) from her cricket loving husband, Charles, who had been President of Rudgwick Cricket Club when they had lived at Aliblasters 1925-35, after which they lived in Gloucestershire.

## Rudgwick Fruit Farm



**Rudgwick Fruit Farm, deeds of sale 1929. The glasshouse field was also orchard**

The Fruit Farm became a property in its own right in 1929, on Stern's sale, to **Alfred Pearman**, a dairyman, greengrocer and fruiterer of Staines Road, Hounslow (previously of Acton Green, where he was born), who carried on the fruit business, but not the school. He acquired 28 acres, with 1000ft span of glass, and **Arun Cottage**, for £2,600. Pearman sold the Fruit Farm to **Thomas E Boothman** (deed missing from the collection). The telephone book lists him there by 1948. He sold his produce in Covent Garden, taking it up to London in his own vehicle. It was Boothman who built pigsties here and he used to let the pigs forage in the orchards. The pigsties are still there but with a higher roof now. He died in the Worthing area in 1958. He was described as café proprietor in Bognor Regis when he in turn sold to **Alan Haynes** from Bedfordshire in 1951. Haynes was the last owner to farm all 28 acres.

He sold off 16 acres in 1952, creating **Oakdale Farm**, beyond Sunnyside, bought by David Grist who lived there until about 1960 in a wooden bungalow. Some of this land had been orchard. The next family there were the Morgans. Mr Morgan lived off a disability pension and kept a smallholding. His wife, I have been informed, died of malnutrition, and a daughter, Avril, was possibly schizophrenic, certainly a very disturbed young lady. A son, George, is alleged to have died of gas poisoning whilst sitting in an armchair.

Haynes and his wife lived at Arun Cottage. He was a salesman for Hartley's jams, and also at one time a driving instructor. He and Minnie grew mushrooms and used some of the glasshouses for growing tomatoes and peaches. It is said she did much of the work on the smallholding. They had turkeys and chickens, some of which it is said lived in part of the house. They had an orchard around the house, an orchard where Rillmead now is, and orchards near the glasshouses, dating from Goodridge's time. A handful of the old orchard trees survive in the present-day garden but most were grubbed up after 1959. The present owners reckon the soil is excellent, alluvial – possibly terrace gravels.



**Rudgwick Fruit Farm in the 1960s: new house, glasshouses partly demolished, pigsties rear (vegetable garden of Rudgwick Grange foreground)**

The Haynes's son Peter was very deaf, their daughter Mary was an architect. She designed the bungalow that used to be at Rillmead. Sadly, Haines was very untidy; he left no end of rubbish to be cleared from the Fruit Farm when he sold it in 1959 to the present owners, who built a house on the site, and cleared the hail damaged glasshouses and remaining orchard. The glasshouses were in a very dilapidated condition after the storm of 1958. The Haynes remained at Arun Cottage, which he had called **Arunbank Nursery** by 1961, and simply **Arunbank** by 1968. In 1972, he sold **Rillmead** to Mr & Mrs Surman. It was described at auction as a building plot with 2 acres of productive market garden, orchard and paddock. A bungalow was built, but a new house has subsequently been erected further back from the road.

# Farming Days

Malcolm Francis

It is very easy to forget how much work there is in keeping livestock even on a small farm. These days I am sure people are at last seeing the hard work that is involved because of the BBC's excellent Countryfile programme and I understand that by moving the series to a Sunday evening it has become a very popular programme.

I used to spend many hours as a teenager working in my leisure time on the Baynards estate where one of my relations, Bert Hill, ran two farms. The farm was mostly arable with some livestock; some beef cattle, pigs and of course chicken. In the Sixties chicken were usually housed in a deep litter sheds, which were usually made of cedar wood. Egg production was quite efficient, so there were lots of eggs to collect, quite a pleasant chore.

The pigs were another issue, as their sties were part of an old cowshed that was part of the core of the farm buildings. Feeding the pigs was not a bad job but the most unpleasant job was clearing out their droppings and there was always a lot to shift, and because of their diet it was rather runny! On a summer's day the sun used to stream into the sheds and the smell was very ripe. One had to brave the pigs when mucking out as they could be very boisterous and it was very easy slip on the concrete that was as slippery as ice. Once one had a full barrow it had to be pushed up a narrow plank onto the dung trailer and if one made a mistake pushing the fully loaded barrow up the steep plank it was very easy to get a tidal wave of excrement surging back towards the pusher...it really was high summer.

Cattle feeding was normally quite a pleasant chore as their feed included a certain amount of hay that was usually distributed from the back of a tractor fitted with a buck rake. The buck rake was just a

large platform that could be mounted on the back of a tractor and usually had large tines to support the hay or straw bales. I am talking about the small bales that you could lift by hand, not the large bales that are common these days. The trick used to dispense the hay was to set the tractor in gear with the engine, set to a fast tick over by using the hand throttle, and then to climb onto the hay bales and cut the string on each bale so that the hay could be thrown to the cattle. A small adjustment to the steering wheel using the pitch fork sufficed to

keep the tractor travelling in a fairly straight line. It was always amusing to see the cattle trotting behind the tractor to get the tastiest hay.

The farm often housed a flock of sheep through the winter months, I understand that at the time the flocks would be moved off of Romney Marsh to overwinter in this part of Sussex. One was very aware how much

labour was involved in keeping a flock of sheep, even for a few months. A farmer has to check their wellbeing quite often, apart from their endless hunger. One of their favourite past times was to escape from their allotted field, and once one made its escape the others would soon join it.

There was a period when Bert had his own flock and resident ram. The ram was called Wally and was very friendly. He was often tethered in the apple orchard on a long chain. Wally's party trick was to greet one when walking past to the farmhouse and he would walk backwards until he had a lot of slack on the chain and would, then put his head down to charge his victim at high speed. We often had some fun with the ram by riding him around in circles when he was tethered, until he threw us off.

I can remember that for a time Bert had some young cattle resident in a field close to the Grange in Tismans Common. When the stock had to be



moved back to Baynards Park he decided that we could easily drive them back as a small herd. We set off quite well from the Grange then past the Mucky Duck and along Pig Lane, but even in those days with a lot less road traffic, it was quite a hard task. The cattle wanted their freedom so at every opening, and every house entrance there was an escape route. I think that we ran about four miles in herding them along the two mile route.

Livestock always seem to escape from their field at the worst time of day; I can remember relaxing one evening at the farmhouse, with torrential rain beating on the window when the phone rang and a lady reported that some of Bert's cattle, which were in a field on a farm near Holmbury St Mary, had escaped into her garden. Apparently they had escaped before! We set off with Bert's daughters to search for the cattle and when we arrived the cattle were having lots of fun galloping around the garden as reported. We could just see pairs of green eyes in the torchlight as the cattle were all black and were nearly invisible with the rain sheeting down.

The problem when chasing livestock at night is that you cannot see where you are running as they barge through hedges and ditches and it is wonder that farmers don't receive more injuries under such conditions. Finally the dozen cattle were all accounted for and the fence repaired; we arrived back at the farm in a state of exhaustion and very wet.

I have mentioned that straw and hay bales were much smaller in the Sixties compared to the monsters of today. The round bales that we are used to seeing today did have a forerunner some years ago. There was a baler that was manufactured by the American company Allis Chalmers and which was never as successful as square balers of at that time. This round baler produced a bale that looked rather like a giant shredded wheat and was four feet in length and two feet in diameter. The disadvantage of these machines was that the tractor driver had to stop forward motion every time that a bale was produced, so you can imagine how many times the driver had to de-clutch when baling a large field. It was claimed that round bales were more waterproof than square bales but one often used to see old round balers rusting away in the corner of a farmyard, which rather spoke for itself.

The Sixties did see some innovations in the way that hay and straw bales were handled. The most simple device was a wooden sledge that was towed behind the baler; which required a second man to ride the sledge and stack the bales on the rear part of the sledge in a block of eight bales. Once the stack was complete a foot control allowed the bales to slide off

the back in a neat stack ready for collection. The main problem with the bale sledge was that it was a very uncomfortable place to work. One was always covered with the dust, and chaff, if the bales were straw, that was pushed out of the back of a baler along with each newly formed bale. The worst were barley straw bales as they produced a dust that was very itchy. If I worked on the sledge for any time the amount of dust stuck to my skin gave the appearance the I had been coal mining!

Mechanised bale handling systems did eventually see the end of such torture. One of the popular bale handling systems was an elegantly designed metal sledge that sorted the bales out into an orderly block, just through the motion of the sledge being towed along behind the baler. There was a tractor mounted, hydraulically driven system, that then picked up the bales in blocks of eight to lift them straight onto a flat bed trailer.

When the bales were transported to the farm for storage there was still plenty of labour. Most farms have some traditional barns and some Dutch barns; I am not sure how they acquired that name as in modern times they consist of a curved corrugated roof with steel supports and a lot were built after the Second World War. When bales were off loaded to a barn usually a small Lister Bale loader was employed, consisting of a continuous belt of wooden slats that were driven by a little lawnmower engine. The whole unit could be tilted to quite a steep angle to lift the bales right to the top of the stack. I have heard of those engines being stolen when the equipment was left unattended! A task that was very tedious was when the bales reached nearly to the height of the roof of the barn and the workers who were off loading the bales were standing amongst the support beams of the roof. It was bad enough in a steel barn but with a traditional wooden barn it was worse, as such barns have a lot of random support timbers. I can remember hitting my head many times as I struggled across the uneven surface of the bales. The problem was that, as the barn became very full, the outside light was blocked off by the bales; one was falling about in a dust filled twilight, and with a sore head! There was a little tradition as the last bale was off loaded that somebody would always shout "here's the one, we've been looking for this bale all day."

Bert had a series of large combines once he had converted to bulk grain storage. Previously combine harvesters were sackers, where a second man was needed to handle the filling and then the despatching of full sacks. The combine that I remember was a Massey Harris, which were quite common and surprisingly a very similar design to

the machines had been introduced into this country from the USA during the Second World War. The machine didn't have a very large cut (the width it cut at any traverse of the field), but was the standard width for the time. The second man's work consisted of filling an empty sack attached to a grain hopper. When that was full a lever was moved to divert the grain to a second waiting sack, while the first sack was tied (always using the "miller's knot") It was surprising how quickly the sack filled with grain when there was a good crop. The sacks had often been repaired, (patches were stuck with Copydex, a rubbery white solution) and sometimes the patches gave way as the sack was filled with grain. This always caused some panic as the grain spilt everywhere. The full sacks were then despatched down a metal chute; and the skill was to dump the sacks off the combine into a tidy pile by means of a controlling lever; sometimes that was the final straw for a weak sack and again precious grain would leak away. . The end of a day's harvesting ended with all the sacks having to be collected from the field; and I can often remember that Jeff Birdfield, who was the stationmaster at Baynard's station, would be working on the farm at harvest and one of his duties was to retrieve the sacks from every part of the field and load them aboard a flat trailer, (making sure that the sacks had not sprung more leaks after they were ejected from the combine). I recall that some of the sacks were so heavy that two people would be needed to lift them onto the trailer.

A final little story: Bert was a very good business man and usually had a lot of success with the choice of crops that he grew; but he had also a wicked sense of humour. When Bert took delivery of his first tanker combine he was invited, with other customers, to attend an evening introduction course down at Bignor, near Pulborough. The suppliers had sold a small fleet of combines to a large estate of about two thousand acres of cereal crops on the South Downs and Bert had invited me to go along to the evening as well. This large farm used old army lorries to transport the grain from the fields to a purpose built storage unit, complete with hoppers, over which the lorries ran to discharge their cargo.

When the event was over Bert suggested we drove up to the top of the Downs to have a look at the vast fields that the Bignor estate farmed. We drove up a very narrow track to a small public car park and duly had a good look around at the beautiful views across the Downs in the twilight; the fields were vast. We noticed that there was only one other car parked nearby; which appeared to have two couples aboard. Two lads got out of the car to ask Bert if there was another way out rather than going back down the narrow track. Bert assured them that there was another route so just follow his car. Bert's old Rover car was, by chance, a beige colour which matched the colour of the standing crops. The lads returned to their car and followed us along a bridle path towards the east, following us at some distance, Bert running with side lights on. When we came to a natural hump in the field Bert turned off the car's lights, swerved off the track into the standing crop of wheat and headed back to the original road. Our car must have been invisible, as we saw the other car disappearing into the night still looking for our trail; and that particular track was not a through road. Funny at the time but I wonder what time they got home!

## Morning Coffee

### Malcolm Francis

My father recounted many years ago a couple of rather funny incidents that happened in Rudgwick. There was a chap in Rudgwick who was the village's equivalent to the David Jason's character "Dell boy", sailing rather close to the wind; I think his name was "Happy Joyce". There was a large heap of gravel deposited by the local council, presumably for road repairs, quite close to the top of Lynwick Street. The gravel was near the house called "Cousens" and at that time was owned by Mr Milward Burge, who was the chairman of Rudgwick's Parish council. It seems that Mr Joyce had a use for some of the council's road mending material. He borrowed a horse and cart to remove a load and all was going well until a small boy, Rodon Burge, the chairman's son came out to watch and asked Mr Joyce what was he doing. He managed to convince the boy that it was an important job (on a Saturday morning?) that he had been tasked to do! A sequel to the little story was that when Rodon Burge was at University he used to work in the holidays for a local builder called Harold Boxall. In those days there was a very small Hotel/tea shop called Goblins Pool (now turned into the two cottages quite close to the pedestrian crossing). Goblins Pool was open in the morning for coffee so Rodon used to take delight in taking Harold and his men into Goblins Pool for coffee in the builder's lorry. It seems that as Rodon's parents were regular customers they could not refuse to serve them. Rodon recounted to Harold Boxall "I think the owners take a dim view of us taking refreshment here"

# Walks Programme Summer 2014

**All walks are on Tuesday evenings, are open to all and start at 7-00pm.**

This year we are running a programme of 14 walks. The late Stan Smith started these walks to be included in the WSCC booklet, which was an early casualty of the now ubiquitous budget cuts. But the Preservation Society is continuing our walks, which are on our website (see [rudgwick-rps.org.uk](http://rudgwick-rps.org.uk)), and in the Parish Magazine.

The average walk is 4 miles in 2 hours. These walks are fun, and often end in the pub. Our thanks go to our excellent local pubs: please support them with your custom. After the appalling summer of 2012, I predicted that last summer would be glorious. You may well feel that it fell short of that, but it was a great improvement.

## Walks Programme 2014

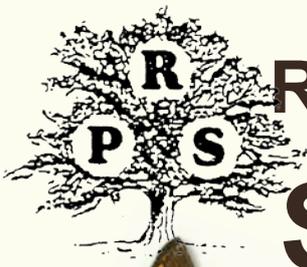
**Sunsets: May 6<sup>th</sup> 20.31; June 24<sup>th</sup> 21.20; Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 20.41.**

**Bank Holiday: Mon 5<sup>th</sup> May.**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Leader(s)</b>	<b>Starting at</b>	<b>Grid Ref TQ-</b>
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	David Buckley	The Fox (Bucks Green)	078330
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Linscott	Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	67323
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Francis	King's Head (Church St.)	090343
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Clive & Nicky Bush	The Red Lyon (Slinfold)	118315
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cliff Walton	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff Ayres or Roger Nash	The Limeburners' Arms (Newbridge)	073255
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	John Connold	Whitehall lay-by (Cranleigh)	78380
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bridget & David Cozens	Recreation ground CP (Ewhurst)	090402
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Roger Nash	Onslow Arms (Loxwood)	042312
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	John Connold	The Sussex Oak (Warnham)	158337
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Nash	Mucky Duck (Tismans Common)	067323
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Helen Leech	Chequers (Rowhook)	122342
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff Ayres	Pephurst lay-by (Loxwood Rd.)	056318
Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Linscott	The Blue Ship (The Haven)	084305

Please park considerately. At the Blue Ship & the Mucky Duck, park in the lane beyond the pub. At Rowhook the parking is up the lane next to the pub **not** at the front. At the King's Head use the **far corner** of the car park. The Ewhurst recreation ground CP is up Broomer's Lane, nearly opposite the garage, **not** next to the village hall. Although Ewhurst PC asked us to use this CP, it is quite small, and residents park their cars and vans in it. You may choose to park in the main CP on the other side of the street. The Whitehall lay-by is at the bottom of the dip before Cranleigh, on the east side of the B2128. At the Onslow Arms, park in the canal car park behind the pub. The Limeburners' Arms is west of Billingshurst, and parking is restricted, so you may need to park along the LHS of the road.

**Geoff Ayres**



Rudgwick Preservation Society

# SPRING MEETING and AGM

Monday April 28th 2014

At 7.30pm Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green

## The Butterflies and Moths of Sussex

Michael Blencowe

Michael is from the Sussex Butterfly Conservation. His illustrated talk will be looking at the 45 species of butterfly and a few of the moths that breed in our county. He will be focusing on some of the more unusual species that live in the Rudgwick area such as the Heart Moth, the Brown Hairstreak and the Purple Emperor.

**ALL WELCOME**

*See reverse for Agenda*

(Only members are eligible to vote at the AGM)



# Rudgwick Preservation Society

*President: Dr Leslie Hawkins*

## 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD ON

MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014, AT 7.30 PM AT RUDGWICK VILLAGE HALL, BUCKS GREEN

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Matters arising therefrom
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
6. Adoption of the Accounts
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of other Committee Members
9. Any other notified business

Any items of 'other business' must be notified in writing to the Hon. Secretary by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to be eligible for consideration. (See address below).

#### NOTES:

10. *Nominations from the present committee for officers and members are as follows:*

#### **Officers:**

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Roger Nash</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman &amp; Planning Secretary</i>	<i>Vanessa Lowndes</i>
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	<i>Keith Allen</i>
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	<i>David Rigby</i>

#### **Other Committee Members:**

<i>Newsletter Secretary (ex-officio)</i>	<i>Leslie Hawkins</i>
<i>Assistant Secretary (ex-officio)</i>	<i>Vanessa Sanderson</i>
<i>Walks Organiser (ex-officio)</i>	<i>Geoff Ayres</i>
	<i>Malcolm Francis</i>
	<i>Colin Briggs</i>

11. *Officers and Committee Members have to be elected on an annual basis. Any further nominations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary (proposed for election), Mr Keith Allen, Old Yatton Cottage, Lynwick Street, Rudgwick, RH12 3DG, to reach him by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Nominations must be in writing and with the agreement of nominees.*
12. *Mr Chris Heath is the Hon. Auditor*

**Visit our website - <http://www.rudgwick-rps.org.uk>**