

This pond was called a "pit" or locally "pett", and the repeated quenching of these poles made very deep holes which were treated by us with great respect, especially in the winter when there was some uncertainty as to whether the ice would bear.

The heat and smoke passed between the bricks emerging in dense clouds from the open top.

When the wind was in the west, the good ladies in Lower Street complained bitterly of "Old Russell" and his "brick kell".

J.S.F.B.

#### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

##### New Members

L. Oppitz, 15 Inholmes Park Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 0JJ (Burgess Hill 45370)  
Mrs. D. Durden, "Mellbreak", 1 Southdown Terrace, Steyning, BN4 3YT (Steyning 813603)  
Mrs. G.B. Cox, 3 Middle Road, Partridge Green, Horsham, RH13 8JA (Partridge Green 711137)  
P.J. James, 15 Sandringham Road, Broadfield, Crawley, RH11 9NF (Redhill 65000 - work)  
J.E.D. Slater, 34 Loxwood Avenue, Worthing, BN14 7RA. (Worthing 212549)

##### Resignation

A.C. Hasling, "Stari Dom", Pook Hill, Lavant, Chichester.

##### Change of Address

J. Carver, The Bungalow, Warningcamp, Near Arundel.

##### Change of Telephone Number and Correction of Address

H.W. Fermer, 170 Hangleton Way, Hove, BN3 8ER. (Brighton 410602)

#### OFFICERS

Chairman	Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey, Home Farm, Herons Ghyll, Uckfield
Vice Chairman	J.S.F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton, BN1 6JR (0273 557674)
General Secretary	R.G. Martin, 42 Falmer Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8FG (Office 0273 28479, Home 0273.33805)
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	J.M.H. Bevan, 12 Charmandean Road, Worthing, BN14 9LB (0903 35421)
Editor	B. Austen, 1 Mercedes Cottages, St. Johns Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 4EH (H.H. 413845)
Programme Secretary	D.H. Cox, 3 Middle Road, Partridge Green, Horsham, RH13 8JA (Office 0293 27777 ext. 3340, Home 0403 711137)
E. Sussex Secretary	A.J. Haselfoot, Albion House, Coburg Place, Hastings (0424 436260)
W. Sussex Secretary	R.M. Palmer, 11 Arlington Close, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, BN12 4ST (0903 505626)
Central Sussex Secretary	J.S.F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton, BN1 6JR (0273 557674)
North Sussex Secretary	E.W. Henbery, 10 Mole Close, Langley Green, Crawley (0293 23481)

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A.G. Allnutt	B. Austen	D.H. Cox	F.W. Gregory	E.W. Henbery
P.J. Holtham	E.W. O'Shea	R.M. Palmer	G.G. Thomerson	M.F. Tighe

PLEASE NOTE: Latest acceptance date for copy for July Newsletter is 15th June



## SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 267159

NEWSLETTER No. 46

ISSN 0263 516 X

APRIL 1985

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Sussex Industrial Archaeology - A Field Guide  
Chalk Pits Museum News  
Sussex Farm Trust  
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Bats

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

##### Visits 1985

10th May, Saturday. (As visits programme card)

Frank Gregory's Mystery Tour of Mills. Meet at High Salvington Windmill MR TQ 123067. Parking will be difficult so please park with CARE.

As the visit clashes with the one day course at Chichester on I.A. Developments, we have agreed to combine so that for the afternoon those attending the course will join us on the mill visits. See last newsletter for details of the course.

29th June, Members Evening, 7.00 pm.

This will be at MARLIPINS Museum in Shoreham High Street by kind permission of Sussex Archaeology Society. Coffee will be served and a small charge will be made to cover a donation to the museum funds. One or two talks but time to chat and get to know each other.

The Committee are calling an Extraordinary General Meeting which is to be held immediately prior to the Members Evening. A formal Notice of this meeting is enclosed with this Newsletter to members.

20th July, Saturday, 2.00 pm. (As visits programme card)

A Walk Around Storrington Mill Sites. Meet in the shopping precinct car park.

10th August, 10.30, All Day Visit to a Sussex Town.

Still looking for some assistance to organise this. See next newsletter for details.

21st September, Saturday, (as visits programme card) Cranbrook Windmill.

12th October, 10.30 am. Visit to Harvey's Brewery, Lewes.

Numbers will be restricted for this visit and initially to members only. ALL members wishing to attend MUST WRITE to D.H. Cox at least one week beforehand stating their intention to attend. It all depends on YOU. First come first served.

Final point. D. Cox is looking for two or three people who are not committee members to join him to form a small committee to help organise the annual programme of visits. He has done this alone for several years and it is time the load was spread around on several shoulders. So how about it?

Events organised by other Societies:

11th May, Saturday, Open Day at Hangleton Manor Dovecote - see separate item.

11th May, Saturday, AGM of the Federation of Sussex Local History Societies at 10.45 am at Weald Community School (near the station) Billingshurst, followed by a 'walkabout' and other events. All members of SIAS welcome.

#### EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition staged by our Society - "Transportation for Ashdown Forest through the ages" at Ashdown Forest Centre, Wych Cross from Tuesday 4th June to 30th June. Daily (except Mondays). Tues-Fri - 2-5 pm, Sat. & Sun. - 11-5 pm. Admission free.

East Grinstead Town Museum, East Court, East Grinstead.  
New for 1985 - A permanent display on local 18th and 19th century road transport including an original 18th century local turnpike Act and turnpike tickets with models of contemporary local scenes.

A new selection of recent accessions; postcard views within a six mile radius by Harold Connold, 1926-59, and old toys and games.

#### NORTH SUSSEX AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Crawley Borough Council have begun the task of repainting Lowfield Mill which was last carried out during restoration (circa 1977/8). Scaffolding is now erected and work is expected to take until the end of April. We shall also be carrying out maintenance and painting on the waterwheel during the Spring and the two events should result in a pristine appearance during 1985.

Work will also continue on various internal projects during 1985.

#### Lowfield Heath Windmill

We have liaised with an interested Group at Charlwood regarding possible restoration but contact with the owners has not yet resulted in any positive actions being possible. Further meeting is arranged to consider the various courses of action open to us.

#### Recording of Industrial Sites - N. Sussex

The recording of sites throughout the county is one of the aims of the S.I.A.S. and we shall shortly be covering the CRAWLEY AREA as part of this exercise. We have, on loan from CRAWLEY MUSEUM SOCIETY a set of 26" (1910-1946) maps from which to list such items as Wind Pumps, Brickfields, Mills, Railways, Water & Sewage Works etc, etc. We are keen to include local and perhaps little known sites and it would be very useful if Members with any such knowledge could contact:-

Fred Henbery, 10 Mole Close, Langley Green, Crawley, Sussex. Tel. Crawley 23481. We hope to extend the area in due course to link up with other areas already being surveyed.

E.W. HENBERY

#### CENTRAL SUSSEX AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT

#### Jill Windmill

Jill is now free to turn with the completion of the fantackle and the laying of the track for the step wheels to run upon. (Jill being a post mill is constructed so that the body complete with sweeps and near access steps rotates on a fixed centre post upon which it "balances"). Work is now progressing on setting

up the milling equipment which entails levelling the bed stone, making a foot step bearing in which the quant sits; and re-cogging the brake wheel, to be able to engage with the bevel gear on the quant, and hence turn the upper runner stone to enable grinding to take place. The exterior cladding and roof of the round-house will also be replaced this summer. Jill is open to visitors most Sunday afternoons.

#### Railway Bridge - Brighton

Over the Easter weekend the railway bridge over New England Road Brighton will be replaced. If this Newsletter arrives before then a visit may well be worthwhile as hidden beneath later Victorian accretions is the original 1841 stone bridge.

JSFB

#### SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY : A Field Guide

Phillimore pp 99 + x (1985). £3.95

The Field Guide was published in January and by now members who have ordered copies through the Society should have received them. The book has been taken up by booksellers throughout the County and should provide valuable publicity for the Society and income through royalties, and sales at functions at which we are represented. Over three hundred sites of IA interest are described covering the entire counties of East and West Sussex and the book has been produced in a handy format which will enable it to slip easily into pocket or bag to act as a companion on one's journeys. Publicity has been given to date in the West Sussex Gazette and on Radio Sussex.

There may come a time in the future when a revised or new edition will be necessary and with this in view, comments on the publication would be welcomed. Ian Dean, Director of the Chalk Pits Museum has already provided a number of helpful remarks and has also spotted one error. The Bognor Regis bus station has not been converted into shops as stated. He also informs us that the Clay Lane, Storrington Toll House has now been extensively enlarged which has not improved its appearance and questionably damaged its value as an historical building.

Copies of the Field Guide are available from Ron Martin at £3.95, post paid. If you buy from the Society you will therefore pay no more than from a bookseller and our funds will benefit.

#### A.I.A. CONFERENCE, 1985

The Annual Conference of the Association for Industrial Archaeology is being held this year in the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow on the weekend of Friday, 13th to Sunday, 15th September. There is a very full programme including lectures on the Scottish cotton industry, brewing, distilling, shipbuilding, and visits to the Scottish Mining Museum, the Bo'ness Heritage Area and a trip with the Scottish Railway Preservation Society. The annual Rolt Memorial Lecture will be given by Douglas Hague who organised last years conference at Aberystwyth. The week-end will be preceded by four days of visits to HMS UNICORN, the Fishing Museum, an early blast furnace, lead mining areas, and an Edinburgh brewery.

I have attended the last two conferences and they proved most stimulating and rewarding. Full details are now available and the latest date for bookings is 28th June. If any member is interested I can let them have a Booking Form. The cost of the weekend on a residential basis is £64 per head or £60 per head double. I intend to go up for the whole week, travelling up on Monday 9th and returning on Sunday. If all four seats are filled the cost would not exceed £20 per head for travelling expenses (as compared with £90 second class return by rail). Would any member interested in travelling up with me in my car please contact me.

RON MARTIN

## TREASURER'S REPORT 1983/84

The Accounts in front of you are the first to reflect the new Subscription rates that came into force from 1st April, 1984 and you will see that our income from annual subscriptions has increased from £662 to £1,059. This year we have also had the benefit of two year's tax recovery on covenanted subscriptions and it is good to see that the number of new covenants arranged in connection with the revised subscription rates has resulted in our income from this source being increased from £48 to £123. These figures demonstrate how valuable a source of income these covenants are and perhaps I could mention that a number of early covenants have now been in force for seven years and I will be writing to the members concerned in the hope that they will agree to replace them with fresh covenants. The other items of income do not call for particular comment.

On the expenditure side you will see that our administrative costs continue to show an apparently inexorable increase and the total of the first four items of expenditure has increased from £494 last year to £799 this year, an increase of no less than 61% in twelve months.

Regarding SERIAC we inherited £30 last year from Surrey University arising from the 1983 Conference and have passed on £62.67 to the East Kent Mills Group for the 1985 Conference after paying all our costs. This figure of £62.67 is included in the item for expenditure of £104.86 and of course leaves a nil balance in the SERIAC account.

Turning to the assets of the Society we have during the year built up an investment of £1,100 in the National Savings Bank Investment Account and this is currently earning interest at 12%.

As to the individual Funds of the Society, shown on a separate statement in your possession, you will see that our General Fund has increased from £266 last year to £763 this year, but any rejoicing over this improvement must be modified by the fact that we have not yet paid for Sussex Industrial History No. 14. You will notice that a Reserve Fund appears for the first time and your Committee intends to try to build this up by crediting to this Fund our income from investments to the extent that this is not attributable to individual restoration funds. Coultershaw Restoration Fund includes the Dorothea Award of £100 of which mention is made elsewhere, and it is gratifying to see that although expenditure at Coultershaw has increased from £402 to £611 the Fund is up from £474 to £718 after taking into account income from visitors to the Mill.

During the year we have welcomed 18 new Members and one new Life Member; however there are still 11 members who have not paid their subscription due last April and I will be very glad to hear from these.

Finally I would like to express the best thanks of the Committee and myself to our Honorary Auditor Mr. Michael Tighe who has once again audited these Accounts, no light task for completion in the short time available.

J.M.H. Bevan, Hon. Treasurer.

## AMBERLEY CHALK PITS MUSEUM

The dreadful weather during the winter, and in particular the frost, has meant that building work on site has run rather behind schedule. The Museum reopened on March 24th and staff and volunteers worked at full pressure to finish roads, paths, buildings, exhibits and graphics.

The area in front of the old office block has been drastically altered, with levels altered to improve drainage, roads laid, and the lime kiln area opened up for better display and circulation.

One new and exciting exhibit is a 1920's kitchen, created from our stores of domestic utensils and machines. The social aspects of industrial history are an important part of the overall story.

Redland Bricks donated over 6000 paving bricks in February, and these are at present being laid in the new Pottery Barn, and the Municipal Engine House.

Following months of negotiations the First War "Baldwin" locomotive rescued from a sugar mill in India has landed in England, and this remarkable survivor is now on show. Industrial railways had several of the engines prior to the Second War, but very few survived post-war, and all the ones in Britain have long since been cut up.

The Museum is currently pursuing a policy of improvement and completion of existing projects, and visitors during the coming season will notice considerable improvements.

Wanted: Any trade catalogues of tools and machines, town directories, company history publications (south-east only) are required by the Chalk Pits Museum.

## SUSSEX FARM MUSEUM TRUST

The Nature Trail at Horam Manor, East Sussex (entrance at TQ 576 171 - car park near the Village Hall at present) is being expanded this season to provide a wider interpretation and history of the adjacent 250 acres, covering the 500 or more years since the land was opened out from the wet woodland of the southern Weald.

The 15th century barn has been rebuilt to house exhibits on all aspects of land usage, from changes in farming methods and the management of woodland to the exploitation of the local iron deposits and the use of the clay sub-soil to manufacture bricks and tiles.

This latter exhibit is being assembled by the Brick Study Group of S.I.A.S. and will consist of a brick-moulding bench and bearing-off barrow, salvaged from the derelict Berwick brickyard (and now restored by Wilfrid Beswick), explanatory material including photographs (by John Upton) and documents relating to brickyards in the locality (assembled by Molly Beswick).

The Nature Walk (entrance 35p) will be open daily from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm between Easter and the end of October. Entry to the Interpretation Centre will be free until such time as the various demonstrations, exhibits and stands are sufficiently developed to be worthy of a charge in their own right. That income can then become available for assistance towards regular staffing and gradual improvement.

We hope that members will support this venture. A visit could be combined with a tour of the Merrydown Cider factory nearby. For this, advance booking is necessary (tel. Horam Road 2401). Further information about the Farm Museum can be obtained from Major M. Goulden (tel. Horam Road 2597).

## HANGLETON MANOR DOVECOTE - AN OPEN DAY

You are cordially invited to attend an open day at Hangleton Manor on Saturday, 11th May 1985. There will be a display of photographs, sketches and other items of interest relating to Sussex dovecotes, together with a model and architectural material by students of the school of architecture of Brighton Polytechnic together with demonstrations of chalk masonry, flintwork and carpentry, depending upon progress on the site.

At 10.30 am and 2.30 pm visitors will be conducted around the building and work benches where the volunteers will display the skills that they have acquired whilst working on the project.

Morning coffee and afternoon tea will be available in the Tudor Room at appropriate times and it is hoped that some of the rooms of the manor will be open to visitors.

At 4.30 pm there will be a talk, illustrated by slides on the background of the dovecote and the work of restoration by the project director.

ALL IS FREE but we do hope that visitors will contribute generously to the cost of the restoration. Hangleton Manor is the only continuously occupied medieval building in our area. The restoration is being carried out by volunteers from local archaeological and conservation groups and is worthy of your whole-hearted support. Do come along so that you can appreciate the efforts of these dedicated workers.

E.W. O'SHEA, PROJECT DIRECTOR

#### AN ECHO FROM PIDDINGHOE

One of the nicest presents that I could possibly have received was a Christmas Card from Phyllis and Mike Wilkinson, joint owners with Mike's brother John of Piddinghoe Kiln.

It was a reproduction of a watercolour of the brickworks at Piddinghoe dated 1850 and shows in the foreground the two kilns which were more or less on the site of the existing modern Kiln Cottage. Part of the foundations of these kilns are recognisable in the boiler house at lower ground level. In the background can be seen the kiln which we rebuilt a few years ago and all are belching smoke and busy working.

In the space between the kilns is a hacking area, which dispells my theory that there could have been a Scotch kiln or clamp burning area, but it is gratifying to see that my profile of the cap, inspired by a photograph of East Grinstead kiln, since demolished, is almost identical.

The discovery of the picture is in itself quite extraordinary. A lady living in a cottage in Uckfield has owned the picture for many years and had never seen the Piddinghoe Kiln, so she decided to visit taking the picture with her. It is believed that the picture was given to a nurseryman in Uckfield by someone from Piddinghoe in settlement of a debt.

E.W. O'SHEA

#### RECORDING FOR BEGINNERS

Those who attended SERIAC at Sussex University last April will recall that Dr. Neil Cossons (Director of the National Maritime Museum) stressed the important task of recording I.A. sites before they disappear. To this end our Hon. Gen. Secretary Ron Martin is nurturing a scheme for members of this Society to record all pre-World War II I.A. sites in the county. So far, the response has been disappointing in that there are too many blank areas on his map indicating the locations where members are active.

Do not be overawed by the task! Another member, Eric Harris, and I have started as newcomers in the field of recording and have already recorded two local villages.

Initially all that Ron Martin requires is:

- What is it?
- Where is it? (map reference)
- What industry?
- Who owns it?

When was it started?

When was it last active?

Where can further information and documentation be obtained?

This is not difficult; first go to the local library to study a large scale map for possible sites, and also research in the reference section for any recent histories. Little of I.A. interest will be found in such books but the names of local personalities can usually be discovered (possibly the author). Their addresses and telephone numbers can then be turned up in the telephone directory, and contact made in this way. Then visit the sites making notes of relevant facts, and talk to the oldest inhabitants (endeavouring to select fact from fantasy!) and to anyone else with local knowledge. Owners of sites will quite likely have documents lodged with their bank or solicitor which they would be prepared to make available with adequate notice, where the facts may be corroborated. More sites may become apparent when speaking to people on the subject, and by one's own observations. It has been found very helpful to show a SIAS membership card (in plastic envelope for protection) when approaching people for information. It acts as an immediate passport and makes them feel that you are 'genuine'.

When all this has been achieved, fill in a proforma supplied by Ron Martin for the purpose, send it to him, and he will decide whether any sites so recorded are worthy of further investigation by a more experienced team to record in more detail i.e. measurements &c. In order to avoid overlaps and gaps it is intended that members should record only in the locality in which they live, but if that is devoid of material then Ron would allocate volunteers to an area with a more industrious past.

Please let Ron have many more volunteers so that we may become more active, performing one of the main objects of the Society with greater enthusiasm. If you are about to start out, please check with Ron that your area has not already been covered.

GORDON THOMERSON

#### WHAT'S IN YOUR WILL?

It has seemed to me for some time that there is a lot of Industrial Archaeological material which members have acquired, collected, photographed or researched, much of which may be lying around in the back of a cupboard or drawer. None of us is immortal and it worries me that much valuable I.A. material which may have taken many hours of patient research, should be lost if such material is destroyed by some unsympathetic executor.

I have recently had my will redrafted and my solicitor has included the following clause which could be modified according to circumstances. I strongly recommend that any member who possesses any I.A. material should add a similar codicil to their will.

"I GIVE free of capital transfer tax to my Executor all my papers photographs books magazines and other articles and effects which I may have at the date of my death and which relate to my study of Industrial Archaeology on trust that they shall be produced to the Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society acting by their Chairman or General Secretary for the time being in the hope that they will retain the whole or such part as they shall in their absolute discretion select of those items and the receipt of the Chairman General Secretary or other proper Officer for the time being shall be full and sufficient discharge to my Executor for the gift herein. Any such items not being selected by the Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society shall fall to form part of my residuary estate".

RON MARTIN

## BATS

No! Not Brighton buses nor the willow variety. I am concerned with the furry flying variety. In the course of our I.A. activities you may come across them and it is as well to know where we stand. They are to be found in dark buildings and cave like structures such as mines, cellars, ice houses and lime kilns.

The Nature Conservancy Council is the government body responsible for the conservation of bats and the following notes are issued by them:

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is illegal for anyone without a licence intentionally to kill, injure or handle a wild bat of any species in Great Britain; to possess a bat, whether alive or dead; or to disturb a bat when roosting. Ringing or marking bats or photographing them (except when they are flying outdoors) thus requires a licence from the NCC. It is also an offence to sell or offer for sale any wild bat, whether alive or dead, without a licence. (Sale includes hire, barter and exchange). But the law does allow you to tend a disabled bat in order to release it when it recovers, or to kill a seriously disabled bat which has no reasonable chance of recovery.

Bats have been given fuller protection than other protected wild animals because of their special requirements for roosting. It is now an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection or to disturb a bat while it is occupying such a place; and this applies even in houses and outbuildings. The only exception is for bats in the living area of a house. Otherwise the NCC must be notified about any proposed action to get rid of bats or any operation likely to disturb them or their roosts and must then be allowed time to advise on whether the action or operation should be carried out and, if so, on the method to be used and its timing.

To summarise, do not kill or injure bats, or disturb them when roosting, or block entrances to their roosts; and only handle them to remove them carefully from the living area of your house or to feed and tend them if this is essential. If bats are unwanted, do not take action yourself; obtain advice from any NCC office. Application for licences should be made to the NCC's London address.

This explanation should be regarded only as a guide to the law. In cases of doubt, reference should be made to sections 9-11 and 16-27 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The local office of the Nature Conservancy Council is:

Nature Conservancy Council South East, Regional Sub-Office,  
73a High Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Telephone Lewes 476595.

RON MARTIN

## CROFTON BEAM ENGINES

Just above the highest point of the Kennet and Avon Canal at Crofton in Wiltshire is a pumping station built to top-up the water for the canal. There are two Cornish pumping engines, the oldest of which is reputed to be the oldest working steam engine in the world. This engine started its active service in 1812 when Napoleon was retreating from Moscow, and three years before Waterloo.

The engine has a 42 inch bore and a maximum stroke of 8 feet and was built originally to James Watt's design. It was converted to a full Cornish

cycle 30 years later. Apart from regular maintenance it has had almost no work done on it until recently when an investigation was made owing to an unfamiliar sound, and it was found that all the internal parts were in excellent order. A fine commendation for the men who constructed the engine and the materials they used.

Both the engines at Crofton are steamed every weekend throughout the year and together they can move a quarter of a million gallons an hour.

## FROM THE PAPERS

### Sale of Brickyard

Four hundred thousand bricks and tiles, brick making implements, planks etc. to be sold by Auction by Verall & Sons on Friday 20th March 1829 the whole of the stock and implements of the brick yard at Kingston Nr. Lewes (the said yard being about to shut up) consisting of about 400,000 of very good kiln bricks 21,000 tiles ridge and hip do, drain bricks 600, lees barrows, planks, shovels, pokers boards, tables, box horses etc.

Extracted from the Brighton and Hove Herald March 7th 1829 by J S Blackwell.

### FIRST VISIT 1985

On Saturday 16th March a visit was arranged jointly with Croydon Airport Society to two 1930's airports - the Beehive at Gatwick in the morning, followed by Shoreham in the afternoon.

At the Beehive John King, Chairman of the Croydon Society gave a fascinating talk on the origins of Gatwick as a centre for flying, leading to its development as an airport. An article in the October 1984 Newsletter by Sir Frederick Sowrey covers this more fully. We were also treated to a visit to the British Airways Helicopter maintenance and repair hanger.

In the Reception Hall at Shoreham we listened to another interesting history of the aviation world. Shoreham was one of the first half dozen flying fields in the country. Only three of the original still remain, and Shoreham is the only one still operating as a public licensed aerodrome. We were privileged to go upstairs and listen to the Air Traffic Controllers at work speaking to various pilots operating planes, and to get a grandstand view of the airport. We were also shown over the hangers where many different types of light aircraft were to be seen.

A very good turnout of about 40 attended each visit in spite of the wintry weather. This sort of attendance is very encouraging to Don Cox, but as you will have read earlier in this Newsletter he is looking for more practical support in arranging these very enjoyable outings which enable us to get together as a society.

John King is preparing material on the Beehive at Gatwick for a booklet on its history, some of which may be used in an article in Sussex Industrial History. If any member is able to contribute information, photographs etc. to this venture, would they please contact John King at: 44 Le May Avenue, Grove Park, London. SE12 9GU

### POLEGATE WINDMILL

Please note that Polegate Windmill has not yet been completed as reported on p.4 of Newsletter No. 45. Lawrence Stevens tells us that much is going on at the windmill and he will keep us in the picture. The mill will be open 10 am - 5 pm during National Mills Day, Sunday 5th May 1985.

#### LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

The following letter from Radio Sussex is copied from the Autumn 1983 Newsletter of the Federation of Sussex Local History Societies and is still relevant.

BBC RADIO SUSSEX

Dear Editor,

As you will know our 'Sussex Scene' programme often interviews authors of articles, and others, in your 'Sussex History' (and your Newsletter). Reading your various publications brings home to me how much local history (and kindred subjects) is being written up at this moment and that here at Radio Sussex we perhaps glimpse only the tip of the iceberg! I wonder if you would care to put a paragraph in your Newsletter indicating our interest in Sussex history so that the secretaries of societies, authors of reports, organisers, and so on, would be encouraged to get in touch with us?

We can't always decide to broadcast of course, just as there will be some who find the idea of going 'on the air' rather alarming, but I am sure there is a rich vein of research etc. yet to be tapped.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ARSCOTT,  
PRODUCER.

Note: There is also a BBC local radio studio at Eastbourne.

#### NOTE FOR WIRELESS ENTHUSIASTS (and others)

I have a number of wireless valves, copies of 'Practical Wireless 1958-60' ballraces of grinding wheels which I would be happy to give to any member if they would care to contact me.

P.J. COX  
37 Dickins Way, Horsham, Sussex.

#### INDUSTRIAL HISTORY TOURS IN NORTH WEST SUSSEX

##### Four Evening Excursions from Midhurst

The series of talks on the industrial history of the Midhurst district given last winter by Vic Mitchell led to a demand for visits to the sites described. They will be by luxury coach fitted with a public address system so that he will give an account of each location before it is reached. Some stops will be for a brief look over a fence and others will involve a detailed study on foot.

Visits will be made to former brickworks, railway stations, water mills, iron works, canal locks, lime kilns and the history and development of the local roads will be looked at en route.

All tours will commence at Midhurst (North Street car park) at 7.00 pm. The coach may be joined at Chichester station (south car park) at 6.30 pm at no extra cost. A different direction will be taken each evening and can be enjoyed by non-industrial minded spouses, as the area is obviously and officially "of outstanding natural beauty".

Seats are limited and so early application is advised (closing date May 31st). The total cost is £12 per person for the four evenings but it is not possible to make refunds or reductions for fewer tours taken.

Dates: June 18th and 25th  
July 2nd and 9th

For further information please telephone Middleton Press - Midhurst 3169.

#### NINFIELD INDUSTRIES IN THE NINETIES

I recently discovered an interesting bound typescript in the County Library at Lewes called "Ninfield in the Nineties" by A.T. Ridel who was village schoolmaster and the son of the previous village schoolmaster and obviously a lad in the nineties. The whole, which can be borrowed, is of interest but an extract on brickmaking is reproduced here. An extract on the tanyard will follow in a subsequent Newsletter.

##### "Brickmaking

Jesse Russell had a brickyard in the hollow below Lower Street on the farm owned by Mr. Greest. The clay has long since been worked out, and the yard closed. The kiln was in full use at this time, and William Knowles, who lived in Lower Street, was Jesse's right hand man.

Probably the house where Jesse lived is still called Russells Cottage.

All the work in the yard was done by man power, and the overflow stream from 'The Spring' supplied the necessary water.

It seemed a pretty muddy job. The clay had to be dug and weathered and then mixed with water into pug.

Bricks, tiles and field drain pipes were the main output. And the slick manner in which a lump of wet clay was slipped into a sanded wooden mould the shape of a brick and wiped off with a kind of wooden plasterer's trowel, again sanded and taken on flat trolleys to form a long line built into a sort of wide wall, spaced to allow ventilation, and covered with moveable roofs to dry out, was of great interest to us.

This work produced strong arms and wrists, and it was remarkable the speed with which they would turn out those bricks.

The actual burning of the bricks took place in a nearby open kiln.

This kiln, or "kell" as it was called locally, was of the Sussex type, that is, it was rectangular in shape, open at the top, with an entrance on the west side. It was built solidly of bricks and banked up to the top of two sides with earth. This particular kiln was about fourteen feet deep with sides north and south of about fifteen feet, and east and west about nine feet.

The floor was an iron grating on brickwork piers, and the furnace a space below. The wood fire was fed through two tunnels on the east side and lording faggots from a huge faggot stack close by provided the fuel.

The dried bricks would be carefully built up in the kiln leaving sufficient space for the heat to pass up through.

We would go down occasionally to see the burning in operation and it seemed to strike us that it entailed an awful consumption of valuable 'lordings'.

Faggot after faggot was thrust along the tunnels into the raging furnace by means of long poles which would emerge almost, if not quite on fire, to be immediately thrust into a nearby pond.