

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

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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
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Treasurer & Membership Sec:	J.M.H. Bevan, 12 Charmandean Rd, Worthing BN14 9LB (0903) 235421
Editor	B. Austen, 1 Mercedes Cottages, St John's Rd, Haywards Heath RI16 4EH (0444) 413845
Archivist	P.J. Holtham, 12 St. Helen's Crescent, Hove BN3 8EP (0273) 413790
Publicity	G.E.F. Mead, 47, Hartfield Avenue, Brighton BN1 8AD (0273) 501590
Mills Group:	
Chairman	B. Pike, Stream Cottage, Coggins Mill, Mayfield, East Sussex TN20 6UP (0435) 873367
Secretary	D.H. Cox, 3 Middle Road, Partridge Green, Horsham RH13 8JA (0403) 711137
Committee	F. Gregory, P. Hill, J. Muddle, P. Pearce, S. Potter, T. Martin
Area Secretaries	
Eastern Area	-
Western Area	R.M. Palmer, 11 Arlington Close, Goring by Sea, Worthing BN12 4ST (0903) 505626
Central Area	J.S.F. Blackwell, 21 Hythe Road, Brighton BN1 6JR (0273) 557674
Northern Area	E.W. Henbery, 10 Mole Close, Langley Green, Crawley (0293) 23481

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

B. Austen, Brig. A.E. Baxter, Mrs. P.M. Bracher, C. Bryan, D.H. Cox, Mrs. D. Durden, F.W. Gregory, E.W. Henbery, P.J. Holtham, G.E.F. Mead, R.M. Palmer, B. Pike, G.G. Thomerson.
Copy for the newsletter should be sent to:
G.G. Thomerson, 42 Gander Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1RD (0444) 450722

LATEST DATE FOR COPY FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS 10th SEPT 1992

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NEWSLETTER No. 75

ISSN 0263 516X

Price 25p to non-Members

JULY 1992

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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1992

- Saturday, 16 August 11.00 a.m. Mills Tour. Meet at Michelham Priory Watermill, Upper Dicker, Hailsham (TQ557094).
Contact D.H. Cox (0403-711137)
- Sunday, 5 September 10.30 a.m. Visit to North Kent using own transport. Meet at the Blue Circle Heritage Centre, Creek Road, Northfleet, Kent (TQ619748). Probable sites to be visited are the Blue Circle Heritage Centre, a disused Cement Works at Cliffe, the "Medway Queen" paddle steamer and the Brook Pumping Station at Chatham.
Contact B. Austen (0444 413845)
- Saturday, 3 October 7.30 p.m. General Meeting in the Library of Varndean Sixth Form College, Surrenden Road, Brighton (TQ307074). Various talks on the subject of "The I.A. of the Sussex Coast".
Contact R.G. Martin (0273 303805)
- Sunday, 4 October 2.30 p.m. Mills Group Meeting at British Engineerium, off Nevill Road, Hove (TQ286065), with a talk on the work of the Engineerium on the repair of mills and a tour of the Museum, which will be in steam.
Contact D.H. Cox (0403-711137)
- Saturday, 21 November 2.30 Annual General Meeting at Friends' Meeting House, Friars Walk, Lewes (TQ417100).
Contact R.G. Martin (0273 303805)

VISIT TO TENTERDEN

On 2 May 1992 a group of SIAS members met at the Kent and East Sussex Railway for a visit to the railway and, later, the town and the town museum.

The party divided into those who went to Northiam and back on the railway and those who stopped off at Rolvenden to visit the loco workshops.

The re-opened Rother Valley line originally terminated at Rolvenden but none of the original buildings remains. Restoration work is carried out for other railways as well as the K&ESR. One Norwegian locomotive was seen under restoration. A small 0-6-0 named "Sutton" made at the Brighton Works in 1876 was awaiting maintenance. The engines could be worked for 18 days on the line, then had to be put into the works for maintenance, a process taking three days, one of which was spent in allowing the engine to cool down.

Some of the locos were "Austerity" designs, built during the Second World War to run the railways in France in the event of the Germans destroying French stock. They were designed to have a working life of two years on minimal maintenance. One tank locomotive of American design had taken ten years to restore!

The permanent way crew of the K&ESR had carried out some sub-contract work for other railways - including work on the Channel Tunnel sidings.

After lunch, our group now re-united, we had a tour of the carriage workshops, including permanent way engineer's carriage whose fittings included a desk veneered to match panelling. The problems of matching veneers and upholstery fabrics were brought home to us by the sight of piles of materials awaiting restoration as replacements were so expensive. The Pullman carriage (now used for dinners on a regular basis) made those present long for the days of travel in such opulence although not necessarily comfort as the bench seats were rather narrow!

The guided tour of the town started from the church of St. Mildred whose tower is built of Biddenden Stone (or as those from Sussex called it - Sussex Marble). The tour concluded at the Tenterden Museum where we saw a fine collection of photographs and artefacts from the Railway as well as models of timber-framed and other buildings and a fine collection of agricultural implements.

The day turned out to be so full of interest that it would take many pages to detail everything we saw. Our thanks go to the organiser and all who took time to guide and inform so expertly.

JILL ALLEN

REPORT ON A.I.A. AFFILIATED SOCIETIES WEEKEND HELD AT IRONBRIDGE 3 - 5 APRIL, 1992

The general theme for the weekend was "Conserving and Protecting the Industrial Heritage". Altogether there were more than 50 representatives of affiliated societies from all over Great Britain. There were seven members from Sussex and this was very gratifying to me.

The first session was devoted to representatives from the Royal Commission and from English Heritage who outlined the roles of these two different bodies in the conservation of the industrial heritage and the position of listing or scheduling historic sites.

Phil Turner of the Environment Centre in Southampton gave his views on environmental issues in relation to industrial archaeology.

Jane Grenville, until recently C.B.A. officer responsible for applications for alterations to listed industrial buildings, gave her comments on some of the difficulties of ensuring that buildings which are worthy of preservation are given due consideration before any alterations are made.

Stuart Warburton told a very sorry tale of the Bagworth Incline Plane House which has been demolished in spite of all the efforts of the local society and Pam Moore described the success which has been achieved in preserving Bursleden Brickworks.

The last session of the morning was devoted to two Sussex members - Tony Yoward who described the work he has been doing in working on a data base for recording I.A. sites and the writer described the work he has been doing on adapting the Thesaurus of Architectural Terms for use in classifying I.A. sites. Both presentations provoked lively discussion.

On the Sunday morning, Marilyn Palmer outlined her ideas on the future of I.A. in the 1990s and how local societies can greatly assist this effort, particularly in relation to:-

1. Assessing the value of sites
2. Preparing typological surveys
3. Recording
4. Training

David Stocker of English Heritage outlined the Monument Protection Plan which is being undertaken over the next eight years to try to identify all the sites in the country which are of value and to ensure that they are given adequate statutory protection. Local societies will be consulted in relation to the industrial sites.

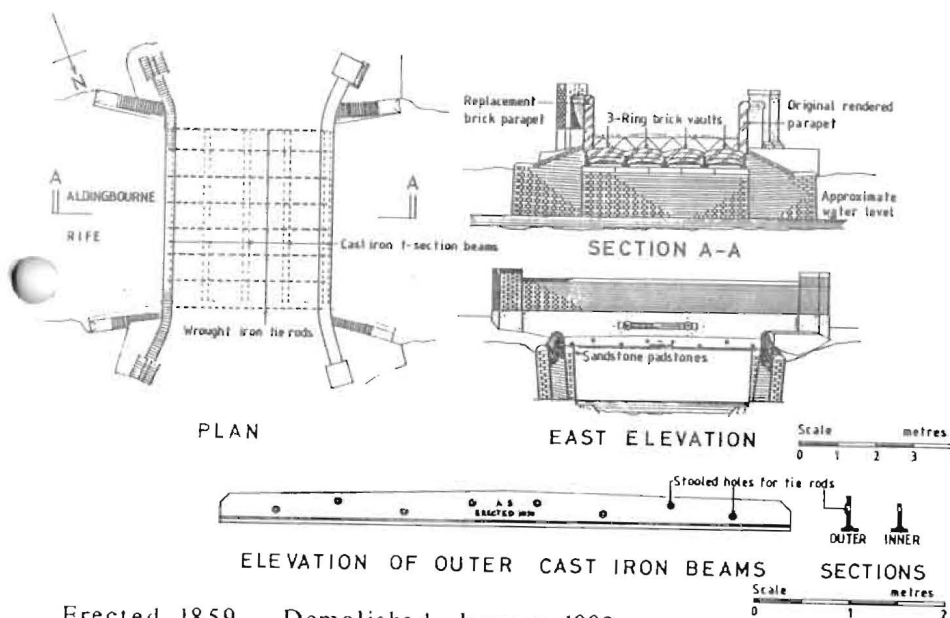
Stephen Hughes spoke about TICCIH, the International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage.

Ate Thompson, Hertfordshire County Archivist, took part in a forum on the location, use and rescuing of industrial archives. Great concern was expressed about the safety of the archives of recently privatised or shrinking public utility companies. The general consensus was that it is up to local society members to be ever vigilant about anything which it is anticipated might be at risk.

RON MARTIN

SHRIPNEY LANE BRIDGE

Please refer to the item on p.2 of Newsletter No.74. Diagrams of the bridge are appended below and are from the excellent hand of Ron Martin.



Erected 1859 Demolished January 1992

BERSTED SHRIPNEY LANE BRIDGE © R.G. MARTIN 1992

MILITARY MINING AT SEAFORD IN 1850

The following extract is from T.W.J. Connolly's *The History of the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners ... Vol. II, pp. 116-9.*

"At Seaford Bay ... the sea had made considerable encroachment, so as to jeopardise much of the adjacent property, and also the defences and martello-tower in its vicinity. Large sums of money had been expended in the construction of wood groins and clay embankments, with only partial success; and as an effectual remedy, it was proposed to throw down by mining a portion of the chalk rock itself, in the direction of the tidal current, and thus cause it to accumulate the shingle, and protect the land and contiguous property. ...

The works were conducted under the direction of Colonel G.G. Lewis, R.E., with Captain E.C. Frome as his executive officer. In the face of the cliff, about thirty-five feet above high-water mark, a nearly horizontal gallery was cut into the chalk. The mouth of this gallery was approached by a ladder and platform, supported by scaffolding. At right angles from the gallery, extending fifty-two feet to the right and sixty-two to the left, were corresponding galleries, at the extremities of which were two chambers of seven feet cube, containing 12,000 lbs. of powder each. Two wires, respectively in connexion with two of Grove's batteries, completed the arrangements for exploding these charges simultaneously. The chambers of powder were about seventy feet from the face of the cliff, and were intended to drive out its under portions and roll them towards the sea. Upon the surface of the rock, eighty-four feet from its edge, were sunk five vertical shafts, at the bottom of which other chambers were excavated, containing, in three of them, each 600 lbs. of powder, to be fired simultaneously with the two great charges. The two other chambers were not loaded, from the non-arrival of a sufficient quantity of powder. The shaft chambers were connected by wires to a Smee's battery, placed in a wooden shed erected about 180 feet from the edge of the cliff. ...

All the necessary operations being completed, the great explosion, on a signal from the galvanic battery by sergeant Edward Wright, took place on the 19th September, under the immediate orders of Colonel Lewis. The effect of firing the two great chambers was to throw out the under portions of the rock, which, from the downward pressure of the superincumbent masses, rolled towards the sea, carrying with them the three smaller chambers unexploded, and causing deep fissures in the chalk as far back as the very foundations of the battery shed. The undertaking, so far as dislocating an immense mass of chalk from the cliff was concerned, was thus perfectly successful, but subsequent experience has thrown doubts upon its utility as a breakwater, for the chalk is gradually being washed away ...

The explosion was one of the largest that ever occurred, and it passed off without accident, delay, confusion, or inconvenience to any one of the detachments engaged, or of the thousands of spectators who witnessed the operation. (The accidental destruction of the three smaller chambers was providential, for had they exploded, the battery shed, with Captain Frome and his assistant, would inevitably have been carried away, and crushed among the falling masses ...) The quantity of chalk displaced was about 200,000 cubic yards or about 380,000 tons. The distance the debris was hurled in front of the original line of cliff was more than 300 feet. The average breadth of the mound formed was about 360 feet, and its mean height about 50 feet.

Much of the expense was paid by Mr. Catt, jun., a miller, to whom the surrounding property belonged, and who, as well for his own interest as for the welfare of Newhaven and its harbour, undertook a large share in its liability. The total cost of the work was 907L 12s 11½d.

Notes

This method of bringing down large quantities of rock was once an accepted method of quarrying, and early volumes of *The Quarry* contain numerous descriptions of 'Monster blasts'. Indeed a 'heading blast' was used in a Cumbrian slate quarry as recently as December 1985 (described in Cumbria Amenity Trust's *The Mine Explorer* 3 (1989), pp. 83 - 87.) As a means of taking back a cliff line, the Seaford heading blast followed the precedent set by William Cubitt in the 1840s when he arranged for the explosion of 19,000 pounds of gunpowder under Round Down during the construction of the South Eastern Railway between Folkestone and Dover. This is described in some detail in F.S. Williams' *Our Iron Roads* (1852), pp. 117-121.

PAUL W. SOWAN

COMPANY HISTORIES

As the U.K. moves ever further into the service sector of its economy for growth and wealth, so the I.A. of that economy becomes more prominent. Sussex has a long pedigree of services, transport, leisure, retailing, warehousing, port services and commerce. Members interested in the latter - as I am - may be interested in two contacts for historical archive material. Both will give an insight into a range of material not generally used in I.A. but none the less fascinating.

J. Sainsbury Ltd has an archive run by Bridget Williams, Company Archivist, Stamford St., London SE1. Marks and Spencer plc Baker St. London W1A 1DN have a similar archive and can provide a range of material including photocopies of documents and slide transparencies of store interiors and exteriors.

Many companies produce their own in-house magazines which contain historical articles and it would be of great interest if members knowing of any could let the rest of us know. Similarly there are many centenary and like publications produced as one-off printings that contain such useful information (but be warned - often badly written!)

GEOFFREY MEAD

WORTHING RESEARCH GROUP

The following are some notes taken at a meeting on 9 June 1992 of the Worthing Research Group of SIAS, held at 20, Kings Close, Lancing at 10.15 a.m. Those present were Michael Palmer, Kate Cosway, George Martin, Michael Bevan, Peter Pearce, Leslie Martin; apologies from Tony Baxter.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed and points arising were discussed. The exhibition at Littlehampton Museum on Duke and Ockendens was also discussed. Peter Pearce then spoke about High Salvington windmill. It appears from what was said that the High Salvington Mills Group were very parochial in outlook and had to be directed into looking outwards at other mill projects. Work was first started on the mill at High Salvington in 1972 and was still going on. One set of stones for grinding will result. This is due to the fact that the mill could only grind with a brisk wind from SW or NE direction, owing to the position of surrounding properties and trees that have been allowed to grow since it ceased to be used. The last corn ground there was in 1897 and later the mill was developed into a tea house. He then followed up with a history of the restoration, pointing out that volunteers were highly skilled at the woodwork that had to be done. The reason that only one set of stones could be used was a technical one. He then spoke of the fund raising days that occurred during the summer months, and how the cash flow was steady, and that in time all fiscal matters would be settled.

He then spoke of another mill, Oldlands Mill, near Ditchling that needs more help to restore it to working order, in which SIAS has an interest, but did not seem able to raise the volunteer help required, apart from three or four regular workers. This mill is half way between Burgess Hill and Clayton, north of Ditchling, and a bridle road is the only means of reaching it, with limited parking space for cars. John Annett is the project leader.

He then explained the problems at Shipley Mill, in which Hilaire Belloc once lived, where planning permission is being sought for a new dwelling alongside the building. Peter said he had translated a Dutch paper on the effect of the wind around buildings and how buildings can obstruct the flow and direction of the wind. This will be used in argument against the building being placed near Shipley Mill.

Then George Martin spoke of the Duke and Ockendens exhibition being held at Littlehampton Museum. He had a discussion with a representative of Duke and Ockenden and had found that they had done drilling only but not whole projects in the big installations in any Sussex town which was surprising. He did get a lead as to where he could continue his researching in the water supply to Steyning, Storrington, Pulborough, Petworth, Arundel and Littlehampton. *

Then Michael Palmer said that the last open day at Coultershaw would be on 20 September 1992 and that on 5 July Geoff Mead was appearing with one of his walks-about-Sussex groups.

Michael Bevan then spoke of the Sussex Survey by Don Cox, who had just completed his first 12 months. The second year should see the project completed.

It was also mentioned that *Sussex Industrial History* and the *Newsletter* could do with more contributors.

The next meeting of the group was provisionally agreed for 13 October 1992, the venue being Kate Cosway's home at 7, Alford Close, Worthing at 10 a.m. With a vote of thanks to the host today, the meeting closed at 12 noon.

LESLIE MARTIN

*(Regrettably George Martin died suddenly on 15 June. An obituary will follow in a later newsletter)

THE MOUNTFIELD TO BRIGHTLING CABLEWAY

In 1988 our member, Mr. W.R. Crawshaw of Robertsbridge carried out a survey of the cableway then in use for conveying gypsum from the mine at Brightling to the works of British Gypsum at Mountfield. This was at that time about to be replaced by a continuous conveyor belt. He took photographs of the cableway that have been added to our photographic archive. At the same time he provided a brief history and description of the system which is reproduced below:

"More than 100 years ago a gypsum mine and works was opened at Mountfield, near the railway between Robertsbridge and Battle.

About 25 years ago a second mine was opened beneath the Brightling to Burwash Road, about three miles away to the north west. A continuous cableway was erected to join the two sites, traversing undulating woodland. This has now become so expensive to maintain (buckets alone costing £1000 each) that it is being replaced by a very up to date continuous conveyor belt due to come into use mid 1989. It will take a slightly more direct route than the cableway and will be the first in England, if not in Europe, to be so long (3 miles) and to have vertical and horizontal curves.

I took a series of photographs for the Society of the cableway showing it coming out of the mine at Brightling and finally going into the works at Mountfield. The photos also show the terrain, tower structures (both steel fabrication and hollow concrete), change of direct stations, tensioning of cable stations etc.

Environmentally, neither the Mountfield nor Brightling sites can be seen from public roads, but the cableway can be seen where it crosses over and under country lanes near Hollingrove and Oxley's Green. It is still in use but only runs intermittently.

As the mine at Brightling has a life of at least another 25 years it is worth putting in this £6,000,000 conveyor. It is a 'chamber and pillar' mine, that is only 75% of the gypsum is mined, the remaining 25% being a pillar to support the roof. The mine is not gaseous as a coal mine but naked flames and lights are prohibited.

The Mountfield mine is still productive and the works processes and grades the gypsum, producing 'Gyproc' board and roadstone. There is a railway siding to the Hastings - London railway line used for transporting material to cement works."

The Mountfield Mine opened in 1875 and the one at Brightling in 1963. The company estimate that well over 1,000 acres have been mined to depths of between 50 and 300 metres. The works at Mountfield processes the gypsum into Plaster of Paris and then it is further processed to produce plasterboard and plasters for the building trades. Other commercial deposits of

gypsum exist in the North West of Britain around Penrith, Cumbria where Permo/Triassic deposits are mined and quarried. There are also Triassic deposits in the Midlands around Nottingham and Newark which are both mined and quarried.

CHICHESTER IN 1840

The recent visit organised by Chris Bryan to the route of the Chichester Canal has prompted me to reach for the copy of Samuel Lewis, *A Topographical Dictionary of England* (4th edn 1840) which resides on my bookshelves. This gives a valuable insight into the commercial life of the city in the last years of full traffic on the canal and immediately before the railway arrived.

"The streets are paved and lighted with gas, under an act of parliament obtained in 1791, for the general improvement of the town, which is also amply supplied with water. The theatre, a plain edifice, was rebuilt in the year 1791: the assembly-rooms, in which assemblies and concerts are held, were built by subscription in 1781. A public subscription library, situated in the churchyard, was established in 1794. There are several book clubs; a mechanic's institute was formed in 1824; and a Philosophical Society and Museum were established in 1831. The trade consists principally in malt, corn (of which a considerable quantity is sent coast-wise), flour, timber and coal. The Lavant empties itself into the sea at Dell-Key, two miles distant from the town, where there is a small harbour, into which vessels can enter at high water, and a collector of customs is stationed to superintend the transactions of the port, which carries on a small foreign trade. The gross receipts of the customs-house duties, for the year ended Jan 5th 1837, amounted to £1031. 15. 1. Lobsters and prawns, caught at Selsey, about seven miles south of the town, and esteemed the finest on the coast, are sent in great quantities to the London market. A large quantity of salt is made at Itchenor, three miles from Chichester. A branch from the Portsmouth and Arundel canal, on the south side of the town, contributes greatly to facilitate and promote its trade. The market days are Wednesday and Saturday; and on every alternate Wednesday there is a large market for cattle, sheep and hogs. The market-house, a convenient structure, was built in 1807; the corn market is held on Wednesdays at the Corn Exchanges in the North and East streets. Fairs are held on St. George's day, Whit-Monday, St. James' day, Old Michaelmas-day, and on the 20th of Oct., the last being called the Sloe fair."

NEWS FROM AMBERLEY CHALK PITS MUSEUM

I am pleased to be able to report that Amberley is to become a Registered Museum under the Museums and Galleries Commission's Registration Scheme.

This national scheme sets out the standards for areas of museum activity which registered museums must achieve.

The aim of the scheme is to foster confidence amongst funding bodies, the visiting public and potential providers of exhibits, that a Registered Museum is worthy of their support.

The requirements for registration include an acceptable constitution and financial basis, a comprehensive collections management policy which recognises the interests of other museums in the area, appropriate curatorial standards and suitable public services and facilities.

Museums have been applying for registration, region by region, during the past few years and Amberley was in the last region to be covered. Throughout the United Kingdom, people will become increasingly aware of registered museums and the endorsement of their work that registered status implies. To ensure standards are maintained, the Museum will have to submit an annual return relating to our activities and we will have to apply again for registration at the end of a five year period.

Although the Museum is now open for the season, work goes on to complete projects in various areas of the site. Fitting out continues on the Spooner and Gordon's wheelwrights building while the finishing touches are being applied to the rural telephone exchange building, including planting the lawn that was typical of such exchanges!

We have recently received the new boiler for our Narrow Gauge steam locomotive "Polar Bear". This 2-4-0T locomotive originally worked on the Isle of Man serving a zoo with its sister "Sea Lion".

"Polar Bear" was very popular with visitors during the period it operated at Amberley and we hope that it will be in regular use again next year.

For this season we are endeavouring to produce a more regular programme for demonstrating our exhibits to visitors. The Robey horizontal single cylinder oil engine in the Municipal Engine House has been overhauled during the winter and this is now demonstrated along with the Blackstone horizontal oil engine and "Victoria", a 7 horsepower stationary engine in the Timberyard area.

Exhibits like these can only be operated when someone is on hand to supervise them and to answer visitors' questions. In these and other areas we would still be grateful of more voluntary help. If you feel you could spare some time to help us, we would be very pleased to welcome you to Amberley. Full training for these activities would be available and we would be particularly pleased to receive help during the period from July to mid-September when the Museum is open 7 days a week.

Apart from the activities within the Museum we have also been able to help other museums in our area with their exhibitions. We have loaned some of our material to Littlehampton Museum for their exhibition entitled "Bringing Water to the World" and photographs and tools from the Hurst Green Foundry to an exhibition at Bexhill Museum about Iron Working in the South-East Weald.

ROBERT TAYLOR,
Director.

THINGS MEN HAVE MADE ... D.H. LAWRENCE ...

*Things men have made with wakened hands,
and put soft life into
are awake through years with transferred touch,
and go on glowing
for long years.
And for this reason, some old things are lovely
warm still with the life of forgotten men who made them.*

(A poem about Industrial Archaeology!)

submitted by DIANA DURDEN

THE WAY WE WERE ... FROM THE EVENING ARGUS 100 YEARS AGO

"A serious accident occurred yesterday afternoon at the Heighton Cement Works near Newhaven. It seems that a man, who worked in the dry-mills, became entangled in the millstones used for grinding, the result being that the foot and part of one of his legs were crushed off.

A doctor was sent for and attended the sufferer who, notwithstanding his shocking injuries, bore his sufferings with great bravery. He was afterwards sent to the Sussex County Hospital Brighton."

GEOFFREY MEAD

BOOK REVIEWS

THE RELIGIOUS CENSUS OF 1851 edited by John A. Vickers.
(Sussex Record Society, Vol 75; ISBN 0 85445 036X

A recent publication should prove invaluable to anyone interested in the religious or social history of the county.

This volume contains the returns made for Sussex in accordance with the Census of Religious Worship 1851. It provides a unique body of statistical evidence on the religious condition of England and Wales in that auspicious year of the Great Exhibition.

The census has attracted great interest from historians and sociologists of religion who have used it as one means of assessing the 'grassroots' importance of religion in Victorian society. This unique source - for such a census has never been repeated - casts great light on patterns of denominational strengths and weaknesses across the country. It is an invaluable source to the historian interested in patterns of religious observance in a given village or region.

Included in this volume are the returns for 602 places of worship. Just over two-fifths of them are for non-conformist congregations, notably Independents and Wesleyans, with the Baptists trailing in third place. Smaller congregations are noted of Roman Catholics, the Society of Friends, the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion and the Unitarians. One congregation in Brighton originated from the evangelical work of William Huntington, the coalheaver-turned-evangelist.

The returns offer a comprehensive survey of the situation in 1851, detailing numbers of worshippers, accommodation, and the size of congregations on Census Sunday, 30 March 1851, in addition to a variety of other information. Statistical tables for county, diocese and Registration Districts are reprinted from the *Census Report* of 1853.

The editor has supplied a full introduction which considers the historical importance and value of the census material and discusses its accuracy and reliability, along with various problems of interpretation.

John Vickers, B.A., B.D., Ph.D., has an international reputation for his work on Methodist history. He was Principal Lecturer in Religious Studies at the West Sussex Institute of Higher Education until his retirement in 1981 and is archivist for the Southampton Methodist District. He is the author of *Thomas Coke, Apostle of Methodism*, (1969) and editor of a collection of source materials published as *Volume Four of the History of the Methodist Church in Great Britain*, (1988).

The above detail has been provided by the Sussex Record Society.

Betty Turner, *MARESFIELD* (1991), Broad Oak Press. ISBN No. 0 9517881 0 8 pp112 £10.95

As the last book on Maresfield was written in 1896 this is an overdue volume and as it is strong in I.A. interest will be sought by members who know the area or its trades. Those who don't will be relieved to find an easily read map in the preface, always useful to locate obscure farms or buildings. Various activities that marked working life are recorded, the agricultural base being prominent with hops and flax, chicken rearing and trugs appearing. More industrial were the gunpowder mills, forge and wheelwrights shop.

This is primarily a photo album with very good reproductions of postcards, trade illustrations and printed text. However there is some useful material in the body of the work. A criticism of this work would have to be that the collection of illustrations would have benefited from a tighter framework of text. As it is the effect is of a rather disjointed affair. An index would help as there is a lot of fact in this but 'hidden' amongst local reminiscence. There is nothing wrong with the latter but a more rigorous editing would have made for a more coherent work. Although there is a generous list of acknowledgements included, I sought in vain for a credit to Ron Martin whose plan of Maresfield Park ice house is reproduced.

Historical fact is a bit wobbly in places. In referring to Blackhouse Farm it suggests there were five moated houses in Sussex, this being one of them; however in lists published twenty years ago scores of such sites are listed; this is not however an academic history book, it is titled 'Maresfield' and that is what it gives you. A rich collection of personalities, places, occupations and social occasions that add up to desire to visit the spot and enjoy what is a great community with many attractions.

GEOFFREY MEAD

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND SOCIETIES' NEWS

Through the good offices of one of our members. Mr. Garland of Brighton, I have to hand a clutch of publicity material on a range of subjects across the heritage-conservation studies area. *English Heritage*, which has over a quarter of a million members, campaigns to preserve England's historic environment, buildings as diverse as Osborne House and Leigh Court barn and environments ranging from Hadrian's Wall to Spitalfields. Great emphasis is put on sympathetic restoration using traditional methods and materials. A more particular period is covered by *The Victorian Society* which lists as its aims - to save, to learn, to enjoy. The Society was founded in 1958 and amongst its successes has been the saving of St. Pancras Station and Liverpool's Albert Dock.

The HMSO catalogue of new publications contains some of immediate interest to SIAS members whose area of study draws on a wider geographical field. *Antrim Coast and Glens: Industrial Heritage* by Fred Hamond £7.95, and W.A. McCutcheon's *Industrial Archaeology of Northern Ireland* at a colossal £55!!! will add to the picture of an historically important industrial region.

Medieval finds from excavations in London form a separate series, two of which - *Shoes and Pattens* and *Textiles and Clothing* have Sussex pedigrees as does *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain* by Vivien Swan.

A series titled "Guides to sources for British history" includes of direct I.A. interest No.8 - *Records of British business and industry 1760 - 1914 Textiles and leather*. In similar vein the Dept. of Trade and Industry has produced *Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax*, an illustrated history of the Board of Trade 1786 - 1986.

Butterworth Architecture, Guildford, publishes "Period detailing and architectural history books", of which *Guide to Recording Historic Buildings* would interest SIAS members. *Potworks - The Industrial Architecture of the Staffordshire Potteries* is produced by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England at £9.95 and "presents the first comprehensive analysis of the potworks themselves." Still with matters mineral but at £48 is Alison Kelly's *Mrs Coad's Stone* by Images of Upton-upon-Severn. "Josiah Wedgwood complained bitterly that Mrs Coad's stone products were selling better than his."

"SAVE Britain's Heritage" of Battersea have amongst their house and church studies *Satanic Mills* £3.50 'the magic of the industrial Pennine landscape and its textile mills'.

A further HMSO catalogue of Archaeology and Architecture records Geoffrey Hay and Geoffrey Stell's book *Monuments of Industry: an illustrated historical record*; this deals with Scotland and its trades, ranging from shipbuilding to kippers, whisky to iron smelting. Included in this catalogue is *Liverpool's Historic Waterfront, Early Industrial History, The Trinity Area of Frome*. Of interest to the Sussex leisure industry today would be *Hotels and Restaurants 1830 to the present day* by Priscilla Boniface.

This is by no means a complete picture of recent publications and members who are on mailing lists for various societies and publishers may like to contribute something similar to the Newsletter.

GEOFFREY MEAD

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The Scottish Refractory Industry 1830-1980, by K.W. Sanderson (MILES OGLETHORPE)
The Butterley Company, 1790-1830, by Philip Riden (MARK SISSONS)
Butterley Brick, 200 years in the making, by Roy Christian (MARK SISSONS)
The Brewing Industry: a guide to historical records, edited by Lesley Richmond and Alison Turton (AMBER PATRICK)
Force Crag: The History of a Lakeland Mine, by Ian Tyler (G.W.HALL)
Change at King's Cross, edited by Michael Hunter & Robert Thorne (TIM SMITH)
100 Years of the Forth Bridge (1990), by R.A. Paxton (MILES OGLETHORPE)
Vanished Dwellings, by Nigel Morgan (PETER NEAVERSON)
Morwelham Quay, A History, by Amber Patrick (MARILYN PALMER)
Wallonie-Bruxelles: Berceau de l'Industrie sur le Continent Européen, (Wallonie-Bruxelles: Cradle of Industry on the European Continent) edited by Luc-Fr. Genicot and Jean-Pierre Hendrickx (R.C. RILEY)

Industrial Archaeology and Industrial History of South Eastern England: a Bibliography, by John Greenwood (ALAN CROCKER)

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BACKNUMBERS OF SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

Mrs D. Mercer of 51, Rotunda Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex. BN23 6LF (Tel: 0323 411726) has three copies of *Sussex Industrial History* which are no longer required. They are in new condition and she would like to give them a good home. They are:- Summer 1971, Winter 1971/72 and Winter 1972/73.



Ifield Watermill

SUSSEX MILLS GROUP



Shipley Windmill

FOOD SAFETY

Sir F. Sowrey has furnished us with an extract from *Hansard* of 5 March 1992 which will be of interest to all those mills producing and selling meal, and those who sell home made cakes etc. on site to mill visitors. It reads as follows:-

“Mr. Simon Coombes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make a statement on the implementation of the Food Safety Act 1990.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Mr. David Maclean): The Food Safety Act is working very effectively improving the quality of our food and giving consumers confidence in the integrity of the food supply.

Mr. Coombes: Does my hon. Friend agree that the full implementation of the Food Safety Act 1990 will ensure that Britain is in the forefront of Europe in terms of food safety in years to come? Will he reassure representatives of women's institutes and townswomen's guilds and other voluntary workers that the implementation of the Act is not designed to target their fund-raising activities in the preparation of food in village halls and elsewhere?

Mr. Maclean: I thank my hon. Friend for his earlier remarks, in which he recognised the great step forward that we have taken with the Food Safety Act, but I am concerned about his latter comments. There is nothing in the Food Safety Act that could justify local authorities specifically targeting those organisations. The advice of the Government and the Audit Commission is to concentrate on the main risks, and if town halls persist in targeting women's institutes, church fetes, village halls or charity teas, the Government will take action.

BOOK REVIEW

West Sussex County Council Education Department, *Mills of Sussex - A Key Stage Two Study*, West Sussex History Unit for the National Curriculum, 32 pp illustrated. Obtainable from West Sussex Record Office price £2.00

This booklet of 30 pages in A4 format is produced for schools but valuable for anyone interested in Sussex mills and particularly if you are involved with school parties. It gives information on how to set about discovering the history of mills with suggestions for sources of information. Several examples are given and these are interesting even if they are piecemeal.

NATIONAL MILLS DAY

National Mills Day, which fell on 10 May this year, seems to be slowly gaining acceptance and generally speaking mills reported good attendances, although it varied considerably from mill

to mill. In some cases the weather was not good and consequently the number of visitors was low, the exception being Barnham, which reported a record number passing through the mill.

NEWS OF SUSSEX MILLS

BARNHAM MILL

Work on the roundel has started. The Peak Stone which was to be seen in the centre of the ground floor has been raised and is now mounted on a plinth.

West Sussex County Council are to make some funds available towards the restoration work.

Barnham Mill Society is to introduce a scheme selling debenture type shares, so if anyone is interested in helping the finances by becoming what would effectively be a part owner of the mill, they should contact Eddy Tarbard on 0243 552792.

A video of celebrations at the mill on National Mills Day 1991 and National Mills Day 1992 is available - price £15 from Vic May 0243-542760

A novel money-spinning scheme introduced by Vic May which has proved very successful is a competition on the lines of the Youlgreave (Derbyshire) well dressings; with prizes for the best entries.

BARTLEY WATERMILL

Bartley Mill held a falconry display on the 14 June - unfortunately before the publication of this *Newsletter*. We hope to report on its popularity in our next issue.

BATEMANS WATERMILL

The new watermill is now in place and this will mean less loss of water and consequently a greater efficiency will be achieved.

BURTON WATERMILL

It has reached me through the "grape vine" that an applicant is negotiating for a lease on Burton watermill, with a view - if successful - to running the mill commercially. I hope to be able to report further on this at a later date.

COULTERSHAW WATER POWERED BEAM PUMP

Open on the first and third Sundays in each month until September. Visitors are welcome to see this unusual waterwheel driven pump in action.

DITCHLING, OLDFIELDS WINDMILL

John Annett reports:-

- 1) The making of two side frames - draw drilled.
- 2) The breast frame is 80% completed.

3) S.C.C. are providing architectural site and general arrangement drawings for Grade II listing and future work.

A stock of timber to complete the work is held, but both work volunteers and money are needed. Surely there must be one or two persons living within the vicinity who could lend a hand and would enjoy the challenge! Please contact John Annett on 0273-843573.

HIGH SALVINGTON MILL

Progress is being made with the shaping of the new set of teeth for the tail wheel, and the tentering gear governor has been connected. A video showing 16 years of restoration from a derelict mill to one in working condition is now available - price £12 from Peter Casebow, "Pilgrims", Mill Lane, High Salvington, Worthing (Tel: 0903-264045)

PATCHAM

Tim Martin, ably assisted by his colleagues from the Engineerium, have erected a new set of stocks and sweeps, which can be seen to great advantage from the top of the hill.

POLEGATE

Toilets for visitors have been installed, and a new item of interest for the museum is a roller crusher by Whitmore and Binyon, which Tim Martin managed to rescue from Blind Mill near Lewes.

SHIPLEY

It is reported that a planning application has been made for the erection of a two storey dwelling house close to the mill. A decision has been deferred pending further investigation, and we hope to be able to report the outcome in the next newsletter.

WEST BLATCHINGTON

Peter Hill reports that West Blatchington had quite a good attendance on National Mills Day. The number of visitors to this mill is not as high as one would expect. Perhaps some form of publicity could be worked out which would make more people aware of the unusual and interesting mill to be found in the centre of Hove.

BREWHURST

I understand that Brewhurst Watermill at Loxwood has been sold to a local resident, but have not so far been able to ascertain what the future holds in store for it.

FULBOROUGH WATER MILL

This beautiful house conversion which was reported up for sale in the January issue of *Newsletter* for £295,000 is still on the market, and the asking price has been reduced to £265,000.

CHAILEY WINDMILL

Chailey Windmill has received a new coat of paint.

NUTLEY MILL

The April 1992 *Newsletter* of the Uckfield & District Preservation Society contains much information on Nutley Mill and this is summarised below.

1. The Uckfield & District Preservation Society has received an award under the Shell Better Britain 1991 scheme for work carried out on the Mill Barn. This takes the form of a diploma which is displayed at Bridge Cottage, Uckfield. Work is continuing on the barn and this includes its connection to the public electricity supply involving trenching to lay underground cables. Electricity is expected to be available next year.
2. The threat posed by development at Old Lodge, which included a golf course, has lifted. If it had gone ahead it would have been visible from the mill and would have been a substantial intrusion on Ashdown Forest. The house has been acquired as a private dwelling and plans for the development withdrawn.
3. Major repairs to the mill have been carried out in recent years and have "resulted in the movement of weight forward in the body of the mill, causing it to be Headsick. The sweeps are now hitting the Trestles when the Mill is facing in certain directions". To correct this it is proposed to replace the Tailpole with one that is longer and heavier. During World War II about six feet was cut from the end of the existing pole. It is also reported that when the mill was restored early in the 1970s the Crown Girts were renewed in two parts. It is now suspected that the joint between the two parts has separated by an inch or two. The joint cannot be easily seen as it is obstructed by the Crown Tree but if the problem is confirmed Tye Bars will be used to draw the joint together again.
4. In 1991 there were 14 open days. School parties are encouraged if pre-booked and the charge of 50p per head includes a leaflet and a postcard for each child. The 1992 season commenced on 19 April and 13 open days have been arranged.

The July edition of the Uckfield & District Preservation Society *Newsletter*, to be available soon, will be a special windmill number. Copies are available price 25p each plus post & packing from the Society at Bridge Cottage, Uckfield.

Copy for Mills Group section should be sent to D.H. Cox, whose address is above.

BRINGING WATER TO THE WORLD



THE HISTORY OF DUKE AND OCKENDEN

An Exhibition to be held at
Littlehampton Museum

June 2nd – 29th August



Directorate of
Environment & Leisure