

The  
Petworth  
Society



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The Petworth Society was founded in 1974 "to preserve the character and amenities of the town and parish of Petworth, including Byworth; to encourage interest in the history of the district, and to foster a community spirit". It is non-political, non-sectarian, and non-profit-making.

Membership is open to anyone, irrespective of place or residence, who is interested in furthering the objects of the Society.

The annual subscription is 50p (minimum) for each adult member, or 25p for those between 13 and 18 years of age. Further information may be obtained from any of the following:-

President - Colonel A.H. Maude.

Chairman - Mr. P.A. Jerrome, Trowels, Pound Street,  
Petworth.

Vice-Chairman - Mr. K.C. Thompson, 18 Rothermead, Petworth.

Hon. Secretary - Mrs. B.G. Johnson, Glebe Cottage, Bartons  
Lane, Petworth. (Tel. 42226)

Hon. Treasurer - Mr. R.A. Sneller, 16 Littlecote,  
Petworth. (Tel. 42496)

Hon. Membership Sec. - Mrs. J. Boss, North Street, Petworth.

Committee - Mr. J.W. Davidson, Lord Egremont,  
Mrs. Sonia Rix, Lady Shakerley,  
Mrs. C.M. Sheridan, Mrs. Ann Simmonds,  
Mr. D.S. Sneller, Mr. P.M. Synge,  
Mr. J. Taylor, Mrs. D. Thorpe.

#### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

It is no great pleasure to take over the chairmanship as a consequence of the departure of Mr. Cakes who has worked so hard for this Society from its beginning. Nor will it be easy to follow someone who seemed equally at home in Christmas Party, committee meetings or bridge renovation! We wish him and Mrs. Cakes a happy second retirement in Eastbourne and hope they will retain their many links with Petworth. Mr. K.C. Thompson has agreed to take over as Vice-Chairman.

You will see that we have a very extended new-look Bulletin No.15. This is an ambitious undertaking for a town of Petworth's size but I have long seen the Bulletin as a potentially valuable organ for making available information about Petworth, and I think it is right to be adventurous at this time. Mrs. Clarke's article is certainly well worth attention and we have other contributors in line for the next issue. We aim to produce the Bulletin at regular quarterly intervals this year. Please remember that this is your Bulletin: if you don't like it say so, if you do like it, then again we would appreciate it if you said so - a lot of work goes into producing it. Not everyone in Petworth is a member of the Petworth Society, possibly not everyone wishes to be, but as a new departure with this issue for those who would like to read this Bulletin without joining the Society we are making a limited number of copies available at David's, the Blackbirds bookshop and here in Pound Street for non-members to purchase if they wish.

I must report that the Committee have decided unanimously that it should advise the A.G.M. against implementing the proposals for an extension to the library. It was felt that to raise by public subscription a very considerable sum of money for a building that would revert to the County Council after a set period was not acceptable even assuming that such a large sum could be raised and serviced without completely monopolising the work of the Society. The Committee also felt less than happy about the provision for letting the room and the proportion of such income to be received from the County Council. The plan then, subject to the approval of the A.G.M., is abandoned. It is not simply "put on ice". This does not mean that the Society is not interested in having a room of its own but simply that this is not a prime motivation at the present time. The Committee would like to place on public record its appreciation of the efforts of Mr. John Davidson for the enormous amount of work put into preparing detailed plans.

Everyone seems to feel that the organising committee made the correct decision in postponing the Christmas Party early to prevent members from the outlying villages attempting a difficult journey in treacherous conditions. In place of the Christmas Party the Society will hold an "At Home" evening on Saturday February 17th at 7.30 p.m. in the Leconfield Hall. There will be refreshments and an opportunity for members to meet the Committee and discuss very informally and not over-seriously the way the Society should go forward into the new year. Mr. Thompson adds a notice about this event after these present notes and I very much hope you will be able to come. If this evening turns out to be a success we would be prepared to hold such meetings at regular intervals. Other events arranged by, or supported by, this Society feature in the programme at the back of this Bulletin. Please support them, they have been arranged for you. In the case of the At Home no tickets will be necessary. Those members who bought tickets for the Christmas Party can have their money refunded where they bought their tickets.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to announce two new members co-opted to the Committee: Mrs. Ann Simmonds and Mr. "Jumbo" Taylor. Both know Petworth well and are well-known in the town and I am sure they will be of the greatest benefit to us.

P.A.J.

#### PETWORTH SOCIETY "AT HOME" - SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

The success of the Society's aim to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on local matters may be open to some doubt, but the Committee has welcomed the suggestion from a member which will at least give an opportunity to improve the situation.

At an "At Home" to be held in the Leconfield Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 17th February it is hoped that informal discussion will take place on subjects of local interest from the trivial to the significant. The Committee is very conscious that things can happen or proposals can be made affecting our lives without our knowing or noticing until it is too late for action and now meets more frequently in an effort to keep abreast of events. We hope that a goodly number of members will support this event which should prove stimulating socially and informative. Come to meet your fellow-members, sample the refreshments, and air your views on what pleases or annoys you about life in Petworth today. K.C. Thompson.

#### PETWORTH FESTIVAL

The Petworth Festival started as an idea first conceived last summer by Lord Egremont and Bob Walker, who then formed a committee who, since they started meeting last September, have been working with (they feel) some success, towards realising this idea. The Festival will take place over the weekend of September 14, 15, 16 and 17, 1979, and the programme will include concerts, films, an exhibition of painting (including, we hope, an exhibition of the Turner watercolours which are kept at the British Museum, and not very often on view to the public), drama, and "fringe" events - we would like to have the band playing in the square, Morris dancing, a Punch and Judy show, music in the pubs, informal entertainments of as many kinds as we can arrange. The emphasis will be on things English, and as far as possible on things from Sussex; Turner and Elgar are both immediately connected with Petworth, and Sussex itself is rich in artists and craftsmen.

We have so far arranged four concerts - the Lindsay Quartet will give a performance of Sir Michael Tippett's new string quartet (and have also offered to learn the Elgar string quartet for the occasion); The Music Party will give a concert such as might have been heard in Petworth House during the time of the 3rd Lord Leconfield (particularly appropriate, since they show on the front of their programme a reproduction of Turner's painting of the Music Room at Petworth House); David Wilson Johnson will give a recital; and Humphrey Lyttelton will give a concert of jazz in the Park. We have approached Lord Clark to see whether he would be prepared to give a short lecture on Turner, and although he is unwilling to commit himself so far in advance, he sounds enthusiastic and we are optimistic. We are also trying to persuade Alan Badel, from Chichester, or George Rylands to come down and give a one man show. We also plan a programme of films - "Providence" is a film made last year with John Gielgud, Dirk Bogarde and David Warner which we think we should be able to get: although it is still showing in the West End, it is unlikely to go on general release and we think it would be an interesting addition to the Festival; Saturday morning will be for the children's films, and there will be what could be called a "family programme" - Star Wars has been suggested, or at the other end of the scale, The Tales of Beatrix Potter.

We shall be forming a Friends of the Petworth Festival in due course, but in the meantime what we would like is to hear the

ideas and suggestions that you might have, to know what you would like to see and hear at the Petworth Festival. The members of the Committee are Dr. Gerald Abraham, Mr. K. Brownsey, Mr. John Davidson, Lord Egremont, Miss Hywell-Davies, Miss Elizabeth Johnson, Mr. Christopher Mills, Mrs. Synge, and Mr. Bob Walker - whether you would like to suggest an addition to our programme, or whether you would simply be interested to have news of our progress, we would like to hear from you.

Elizabeth Johnson.  
Hon. Secretary.

#### ON THE DOWNS

Practically everyone in Petworth must be aware of the great ridge of the South Downs which cuts across our view to the South and provides some of the finest walks in the South of England. While Petworth has a variety of soils ranging from wealden clays to finer greensand, the Downs are uniformly chalky with masses of flints, of all shapes and sizes which provide characteristic building material. These form a hard stone made largely of silica and have been worn down to rounded lumps which split easily into nodules as many pre-historic men discovered, and they made many of their tools and weapons from them. One can still find flakes of flint on the Downs which would make serviceable tools. The chalk downs are made of fine limestone, glaring white in places with thin clay and loam soils on top. They are very porous and hold water like a sponge once a plant has got its roots down into them. They have their own peculiar vegetation but this has been much affected by the grazing of sheep which gives us a peculiarly colourful, short grass full of thymes and other dwarf plants. Unfortunately in comparatively recent times much of this has disappeared with changing farming economics giving place to arable land which is ploughed and used to grow grain, and in the lower, more fertile areas even crops such as potatoes.

One of the easiest ways up onto the Downs is by Bignor down above Sutton where an adequate road leads up to a car park in an area of open, flat grassland. One goes up through a farmyard and across an open field to Woodland and one begins to find some of the peculiar chalkland flowers, in summer large mauve campanulas, C. latifolia, with great open bells, in autumn the bushes are covered with the trailing white fluff of the seed heads of the Old Man's Beard (Clematis vitalba) with the red hips of dog rose and the red, glossy

berries of the guelder rose (Viburnum opulus) and the ornamental fruits of the spindle bushes (Euonymus europaeus). In the Spring primroses are plentiful and lovely and there are always masses of dog's mercury (Mercurialis perennis) which tends to cover the ground and keep out other plants with its greenish flowers.

Beech and oak are the predominant trees but there is also plenty of yew and whitebeam and dogwood, the latter being easily recognised by its young pink twigs and black fruits. Bluebells are plentiful under the trees and cover the ground with a lovely blue-mauve haze. Do not fall into the temptation of picking great bunches for they rarely last long in water. In open places orchids such as the spotted orchid, Dactylorhiza fuchsii, are still quite plentiful but, again, should not be picked, they are very variable both in their colouring and in their markings. Rarer are the creamy white butterfly orchids and the green twayblade easily recognised by its pair of leaves on each side of the stem.

When one gets out into the open a fascinating signpost in Latin still points various footpaths including the South Downs Way and one can leave one's car. In Spring cowslips with their warm scent are still quite plentiful in most years while later come the dainty hairbells and the larger campanula, C. glomerata, with its cluster of upright deep mauve bells. A brilliant flower of July and August is the buglos, Echium vulgare, with pink buds opening into bright blue flowers. It often makes spikes of 2ft. but was not so plentiful this year owing to the cutting of the grass. Where the grass is shorter there are purple thymes, Thymus serpyllum, a widespread and very variable plant, eyebrights dwarf white flowers, Euphrasia officinalis, little flowers of the figwort family with interesting pink and yellow markings if one looks at them through a magnifying glass. The bright yellow toad-flax with its prominent long spurs, Linaria vulgaris, is common both in the hedgerows and in the open patches of grass, while another member of the figwort family, the large yellow Verbascum thapsus, the great mullein is also conspicuous with its large grey leaves and tall spikes as tall as the purple foxgloves. This year the many members of the Umbelliferae, the carrot family, both white and yellow, were particularly conspicuous from the cow parsley of early summer to the hogweeds, Heracleum sphondylium, with white panicles of flowers often five feet tall and a foot across, to the Wild Parsnips, Pistinaea rativa, flowering in the late summer with strong yellow flowers. Most of the carrot family are best identified by the form of their seedheads. There are many

more, which we must leave over to a later article. The Downs around Petworth are rich flower hunting at nearly all seasons, while the views are superb.

Patrick M. Synge.

### "Round The Hills" in the reign of James I.

(see centrepiece map from the Leconfield estate copy of Treswell's original map of 1610 - the original being on hide is difficult to reproduce with clarity. The copy is reproduced here by kind permission of Lord Egremont. Please note also the 1859 drawing of Church and Rectory showing the lands in question.)

The Gog fields were, in the seventeenth century and long before, known as the Ideshurst or Hideshurst and we have spoken in a previous Bulletin of the distinct "ridges", still easily visible, being traces of a medieval field-system. Little however has hitherto been known of the history of "Round the Hills" as it is popularly known, for long the main entrance from Petworth to the fields of the Ideshurst. This area is now vividly illumined by the details of a bitter dispute in 1655 between Francis Cheynell, Bishop of Chester, Rector of the parish under Parliamentary rule during the Civil War and a noted Puritan, and Algernon, 10th Earl of Northumberland. The 10th Earl took the Rector to the court of Chancery over the latter's refusal to allow a right of way for carts and wains coming from Shimmings and the Ideshurst, through a gate at the top of the present sloping field on the further side of the first stone bridge, over the stream at the present bridge and up the steep hill 'Parsonage Hill' into Petworth. At this time Parsonage Hill and the sloping field were part of the Rectory Manor and the Ideshurst, the Earl's lands, began roughly at the present field gate.

As was usual in such cases Chancery appointed a commission, probably of local gentlemen, to hear evidence in the country and then remit that evidence to Chancery itself for adjudication.

All that is known to be extant of the documents connected with the dispute is a battered and damaged gathering of summary depositions in Petworth House Archives giving the gist of two long and apparently lost folio books of depositions, one testifying for the Rector and one for the Earl. The case was evidently not brought to a conclusion by Chancery and Leconfield (Petworth Manor pp 53 ff) knows of a second enquiry held in 1677. The matter was in fact only resolved

when, in the eighteenth century, the Duke of Somerset established his own right of way after he had become lord of the manor of Petworth Rectory.

The Earl produces 14 witnesses and the Rector 12. They look back in time from 1655 over the period of the Civil War and a succession of rectors, from Nicholas Smith at the end of the sixteenth century, Dr. Bowne (1591-1622) "painful pastor of this parish for thirty years" as a church brass has it (cf Arnold pp 68), and Dr. Mountague, rector here until 1638. All the deponents are middle-aged or elderly by 1655, the youngest being aged 50 and the eldest, Robert Ward "late of Lurgashall" being aged 90 years. They concentrate their recollection basically on the period 1610-1625.

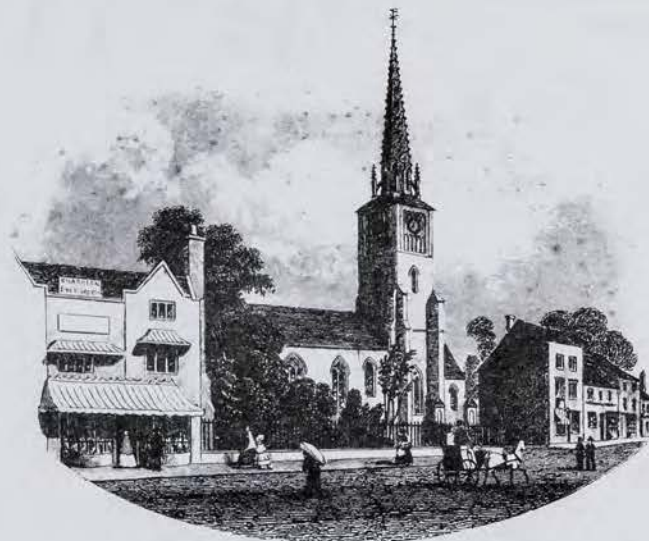
For the Earl, William Mose and James Hart agreed that some thirty years previously the way in question was enjoyed as of right by the Earl. Thomas Paine agreed too, allowing however that the way had not been used within the last thirty years. Nicholas Morris could remember some 54 years previously that one Mr. Beache had bought timber on the Earl's land and brought it out over the stream and up the hill. Morris knows too of the Rector's barn being burned down some 30 years previously so that the rubble obstructed the path until it was removed. There were obviously then, as now, two ways up the hill from the bridge. One came straight up the steep incline and the other round in a curve, and affording a more gradual climb up the hill, was more suitable for carts and wains. The two ways are particularly clearly shown on the 1859 drawing and were probably much the same two hundred years before. It is still possible to notice a small plateau on the ground halfway up the hill on the curving wain way and a barn stood on this site in the mid-nineteenth century - possibly this was also the site of the burned barn. John Parker (quoted by Leconfield pp53), speaking at the later enquiry in July 1677, could remember having heard how, in the time of Dr. Bowne, William Satcher had halted at the barn carrying a load of charcoal in a cart, while he went to get the keys to the gate from the Rectory. Obviously there were gates at both ends of the route. Some of the charcoal must still have been smoking for when William Gale, his companion, secretly took some of them and hid them in the Rector's barn to collect later, they caught the straw alight and burned down the barn.

John Hardham had been at school in Petworth in the first decade of the seventeenth century and had seen the Earl's servants use

the way in question for driving horses and for taking cows to be milked. He could recall having seen one Bridger, the Earl's servant, drive his waggon that way. Henry Chandler too could remember a gate standing at the point where the two territories met and how his father had bought a tree from the 9th Earl and carried it back that way at the beginning of the century. Nicholas Weare knew of a similar gate some 38 years before (i.e. in 1617) and had had a key to open it. He had travelled that way some 100 times with teams of oxen and "never was contradicted". John Robson too knew of a key, but of no stoppage until some 12 years previously when the way was closed "by reason of some rudeness done by soldiers in the late troubles" - a rare reference to events at Petworth during the Civil War. Nicholas Alderton too remembered a gate, but had also seen the late Henry, Earl of Northumberland ride that way with attendants, coaches and horses. Indeed some 45 years before Alderton's father had grubbed up some trees and brought them out that way. Robert Trash had seen the 9th Earl's servants carry wood and coals that same way although he knew also of another way via Shimmings sometimes used by them.

On the Rector's side the deponents are of course testifying to show that the Earl did not have and never had had right of way from the Ideshurst through the sloping field, over the stream and up the Parsonage Hill wain way. Robert Ward could remember no cart way there at the turn of the century. A stile there certainly was for a foot way but "nce gate or wattle for a wayne way". Timber that had been felled in the Ideshurst was carried out via Shimmings Lane, and there had been no gate connecting the two domains in the time of Mr. Smith, Rector here before Dr. Bowne. John Underwood recalled having fairly recently set up a "small whaple gate" with one Carter on the Earl's behalf but had found no trace of a gate as opposed to a stile, wood was carried into the town up the Leith Hill (i.e. up the slope by the present Withy Copse).

William Satcher was somewhat guarded and testified that the Earl's servants sometimes went the long way round Shimmings. One may assume from this that they sometimes too went the disputed way. The way from Shimmings was in fact a very long way round for it is clear from the survey of 1779 that the old road to Shimmings lay to the right of the present highway, going down the lane past Orchard House and curving round to Shimmings behind the present council depot. William Wakeford could remember tenants growing oats in the fields, and carrying them through the brook and up the Leith Hill - thus in fact avoiding the usual road from Shimmings, as well as the disputed shorter way.



The Church showing buildings standing in what is now the Churchyard.



Petworth House and lake

# Hides Hurste

Acres — 3 — Rood — 38

Demeyns P F

Personadge grounde



Hides Hurst and Parsonage Hill;  
extracted from the 1610 map by  
Ralph Treswell.





Market Place, Petworth.



*The Church & Rectory Petworth*

The Church and Rectory  
showing the alternative routes up Parsonage Hill.

Gerson Butcher saw the usual way however as being via Shimmings Lane. In fact at the turn of the century the Parsonage Hill had been so full of woods and bushes that no one could have brought a cart up there anyway. Nor was there any gate, simply "quick frithe groweinge in the place". A gate was only put there during Dr. Bowne's time. The usual way to the town was across the fields and up Shimmings Lane, William Bowyer deposed that the normal highway out of Petworth was through Shimmings Lane and between the fields known as Bowyer's crofts - formerly his father's lands. The Earl's father's servants had driven cattle that way to his knowledge. Nicholas Smart could remember Henry, Earl of Northumberland being released from the Tower some 35 years previously (i.e. 1620) and a gate set up, while Emory Puttock who had been tenant in the fields by Shimmings some 35 years before said that he had always used the Shimmings route by way of Bowyer's crofts. If there had been at that time another way, he would have used it "as beinge more neere and convenient".

Such are the various testimonies on either side - not always agreeing in every detail although it may be possible to deduce a reasonable outline of events. Almost certainly the Earl's witnesses are correct in claiming that they had used the way through the gate over the stream and up Parsonage Hill: the occasional remembrance of the Rector's barn being burned down shows that. Equally certainly there was a stile but no farm-gate before Dr. Bowne. It seems to be Dr. Bowne who gave qualified permission for the Earl's servants to take the short cut to and from the Ideshurst over the lands of the Rectory Manor, a consent gradually withdrawn by later incumbents, but a consent taken by the 9th Earl and his son the 10th Earl as a right of way. Whatever the deliberations of Chancery, the incident shows that the line of paths and the lie of the land have changed little since those days - indeed looking down from the footpath into the valley on a misty morning one might almost expect the 9th Earl to materialise through the distant farm-gate with his retinue - still presuming on the kindness of Dr. Bowne, that painful pastor!

P.A.J. with much help from J.T.

PETWORTH 100 YEARS AGO

It certainly seems that we are entering a new era of violence these days when it hardly seems safe to venture out alone after dark, but I wonder if we who lived in this century are actually

lucky in having spent the first part of our life in a non-violent society: for apart from the holocaust of the second world war it was a safe and secure world. However one wonders if this safe time lasted only about fifty years, for it was not until the 1920's that women could walk the streets alone without fear, before this footpads were quite common in the dark unlit streets and lanes.

Hungers Lane about a hundred years ago, was the hiding place of one thug nicknamed Springheel Jack, and this fascinating and ancient little town shared the terror of the London counterpart 'Jack the Ripper'... This maniac was wont to spring out from the dark cover of the lane overshadowed with nut trees and blackberry bushes with knife in hand and I think he was never apprehended, unlike today when our police force would track him down. This lane is probably one of the oldest roads in England, it certainly could tell tales of ancient happenings, from the knights and their servants who fought each other for the right to pass on the road: to the smugglers who crept along with illicit brandy and lace strapped to their pack saddles, on their way to their big cave at the top of Black-down. It was for centuries the main thoroughfare to Chichester.

Eccentrics and personalities abounded in the area, one hundred years ago, unlike today's stereotyped characters with their dull lives. In Angel Street there lived an old lady who had thirty cats, each with their own little chair and dish, with which they sat with her at table, napkins tied around each neck, and each with their own little bed, in neat rows in a bedroom!!

My grandmother was born in 1865 at Lickfold at her father's Home Farm, he having two others at neighbouring Lodsworth and Lurgashall - the three 'L's' that lead off from Halfway Bridge - so named because in those days of horse and carriage travel, it was exactly between Petworth and Midhurst. She had to board at Midhurst school, which later became Midhurst Grammar school, she and her sisters at one building, her brother at the other, the boys school had to wear mortar boards on Sundays, much to their disgust: and boys and girls being no different in that respect then, as now, many a love letter was her brother begged to deliver to their current 'pash'. In Kate, (my grandmother's) school, cold water washing was the order of the day, and often she had to break the ice in the winter, before being able to start. French language only was spoken, except on the Sabbath, when one could relax with one's native tongue! If they forgot their manners and put their elbows upon the dining table, a mistress would come behind and bang the offending limb hard upon

the wood, intoning to the pained girl, 'be as good as you are able, and take your elbows off the table'. One of the pupils was always 'showing off' and acting and singing, standing up - on her bed in the dormitory - and nobody was surprised when later this girl, Marie Tempest by name, became a famous West End star!

"PROUD PETWORTH, POOR PEOPLE, HIGH CHURCH, CROOKED STEEPLE" - the spire which leaned far out of the perpendicular in these days, gave rise to this doggerel rhyme; in latter days the spire being considered unsafe was removed from this very interesting church. Every Sunday every villager and cottager attended church, all my great grandfather's labourers knew that their living depended upon pleasing the 'squire' as he was called, and they had to show their face at church. One day bowling along in the carriage and pair on a fine spring morning, a distraught cottager came rushing out to stop my great grandfather (Henry Milton) "Come quick, maaster, it's Ben"..... Henry reined in and followed the man into the sparsely furnished hovel, where one of his men was being held forcibly by others, he was foaming at the mouth, his eyes nearly bulging from their sockets - the dreaded rabies as it is known had it's hold upon the man. (Hydrophobia - its correct name, for at the end, the afflicted person imagines he is drowning, and demented tries to get rid of his own saliva). Henry knew only too well, what was required of him; white faced and shaking, he placed the pillow firmly over the man's head until his struggling stopped and they knew he was out of his agony, and out of this life. Such was the custom, a mere hundred years ago!! This was the one day that Henry did not attend the Parish Church!

Sometimes my grandmother and her sisters and brother were invited to play with the children of the second Baron Leconfield at the stately Petworth House, but everything was so terribly formal and grand there that she much preferred to play with the gypsy children whose caravan her father allowed to encamp in his lower field. Old Booker the father would show her how to cook hedgehog on the camp fire, and make wooden dollies. One never to be forgotten day, Kate and her little sister Amy were playing by the brook side, when Amy fell in; suddenly a tall long haired man with a long black flowing cloak ran to help... "Take her home quickly, my maid" the oddly attired man told her. From their description of him, their elders knew that it had been the poet Alfred Tennyson who was staying in the district.

One wonders sometimes, how one's ancestors affect one's own being, would I have been the person I am, had my grandmother agreed to marry a son of one of the old established families, Walter Dawtrey. (This family is mentioned 800 years ago, in local records; it is reputed that Queen Elizabeth I whilst riding from Parham to Cowdray, dropped a horseshoe nearby, and was received by Widow Joan Dawtrey and her son, Francis, whilst waiting for the horse to be reshod. My grandmother preferred the young man from the International Stores then in New Street. This Charles, later to become my own grandfather, had come from his father's farm at Ryde, to be apprenticed in the grocery trade, before taking his own grocery business. However, trade then was not considered acceptable in the social scale, and the Miltons being directly descended from the poet John Milton, and very proud of their social status, it was very hard for Kate to make them relent from their intention that she should marry into the acceptable Dawtrey family..... how much easier my genealogical researches would have been, had she concurred with their wishes! Of course she married the grocer, and left the town, and later all the family had also left the district, and the Milton family were only resident in Sussex for half the 19th century, and where my great grandfather Henry actually originated from, I just cannot discover. At the end of the 19th century, with the corn laws increasing, and American wheat expanding, lots of farmers gave up their land, unable to cope anymore, and he sold up all his land, and went into partnership with his brother Manning, at a Brewery in the town. Eventually he and his brother retired to Southsea in Hampshire, and none were left in this fascinating and ancient little town.....

from Mrs. M.K. Clarke,  
23 Ernest Road,  
Bedhampton, Hants.

#### THOMPSON'S HOSPITAL - A NOTE

Work has now begun on the conversion of Thompson's Hospital to provide 7 x 2 room flats. It is expected that occupation will begin during Spring 1979.

Earlier this year the building was the subject of a Measured Drawing by one of the Architectural Students from Pennsylvania State University, USA, when the group of students was in Petworth studying with John Davidson. The Measured Drawing provides an accurate record of the building as it was immediately prior to conversion. Other students

in the group produced drawings of Stone House, Leconfield Memorial Hall, Somerset Lodge, Daintry House and North House.

John Davidson.

#### THE ANGEL HOTEL - A NOTE

It may interest members of the Petworth Society to know something of the history of the Angel Hotel. According to the Whitbread Wessex Brewery, the owners, the earliest deed is dated July 29th 1720 and is a lease between George Trew and Thomas Hampton. The following year the property was conveyed to T. Hampton and is named in the deed as a Public House.

In 1787 the property was leased to John Osborn Greenfield and M.J. Dawtrey, formerly a butcher. Evidence in the document shows that there was a small brewery on the site and that the lease was part of a marriage settlement. Ten years later it seems that Mr. William Johnson has a lease which refers to the property as Emerys, but this may have been a cottage within the brewery curtilage.

In 1806, in a document which mentions the name Angel, Mr. John Osborn Greenfield, a wheelwright, leased the property to John Luttmann Ellis. Twenty years later he or a subsequent Mr. T.O. Greenfield leased it to Mr. William Wild. Notes on the document indicate that it was for ten years used as a rent book, the rent being £9 per annum.

In 1840 Mr. J.O. Greenfield became the owner of the Angel which was sold to him by a Mr. Buckle Wild, County Excise Officer; and in his turn Mr. Greenfield sold to Mr. Michell brewer of Steyning in 1863. All the people mentioned above were local inhabitants of Petworth and surrounding districts.

The next reference shows that the Steyning Brewery conveyed the Angel to the Portsmouth and Brighton United Breweries in 1928; and the final information is of the amalgamation of this brewery with Brickwoods. There is no explanation as to how it came into the possession of Whitbread Wessex Ltd.

D. Gundry.

WATERMILLS AT PETWORTH AND BURTON  
A NOTE BY MRS. GILL THE COUNTY ARCHIVIST

I was wondering whether the Petworth Society might be interested in a project currently being organised by the Record Office with the help of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society. This involves the tape recording of the recollections of people who have been connected in one way or another with the old watermills at Petworth and Burton which are being partly restored by the S.I.A.S. A number of people, including millers, millwrights, and mill workers, have already been recorded, but I thought that a mention in your Bulletin might provide us with the names of other people who would be interested in helping with this project.

Another area of interest to the S.I.A.S. is the development of the system of water supply to the town of Petworth, and again a note in your newsletter might be of interest to your members and might also produce some more people who would be willing to contribute to our tape library.

FRANCIS STEER, F.S.A.

By the death at Chichester on September 23rd of Dr. Francis Steer Petworth has lost a good friend to whom it owes much. When County Archivist he volunteered to clean and repaint with his own hands the Dawtrey monument in St. Thomas' Chapel in the Parish Church. This monument was in poor condition through long neglect. He wrote an article in the 'Monumental Journal' on this interesting 16th century tomb, now to be seen with its heraldry and figures restored to their original colours. The restoration of the heraldic stained glass in the chapel at Petworth House one of the few relics of medieval Petworth House was carried out under his direction.

Since retirement as County Archivist in 1969 he had worked on the archives and library of the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel Castle. He was 66.

A.H.M.

LOCAL HISTORY AND RECORDS

When this Bulletin comes out the small Exhibition of photographs 'Transport and traffic 1880-1938' at the Public Library will be nearing its end. The next: "People and Portraits" is scheduled for early April. We propose to put up a number of these small exhibitions this year but probably no large one on the lines of those in the two previous years. This time we have made no great effort to publicize the Exhibition, so if you like the photographs please tell your friends.

The handwriting group, now somewhat enlarged, continues its regular meetings. We have been able to add a few facts to our knowledge of the poachers from River Park and their activities in Petworth Park in the 1620's. Two short documents survive in the Public Record Office in London and a long series of replies to depositions has recently come to light in Petworth House. We have also read letters from Mr. Taylor steward to the Duke of Somerset to his Grace at court concerning developments in the building of the new Petworth House (1702) and giving great detail of hunting undertaken with his Grace's hounds in the Goodwood area and also towards the Surrey border. We have also read accounts for the building of Petworth House at this period and earlier accounts for building a hunting lodge at Goodwood and for a fulling-mill at Haslingbourne.

The Group will give a slide show on Monday March 5th at the Leconfield Hall at 7.30 p.m. This will feature new colour slides by Mr. John Mason and also some slides not previously shown taken from the Garland collection. Members interested in local history are also cordially invited by the West Sussex Archives Society to a talk in the Leconfield Hall on Monday 2nd April when Mrs. Alison McCann of the West Sussex Record Office will speak on the Third Earl of Egremont. Mrs. McCann obviously needs no introduction to the readers of these notes and the evening promises to be a very interesting one.

P.A.J.

QUESTIONS

- Q 15/1 Has anyone any recollections of the traditions about Springheel Jack of Hungers Lane mentioned in Mrs. Clarke's article, or of the old lady with the cats in Angel Street or of the incident with Queen Elizabeth and the horseshoe?
- Q 15/2 According to the Tales of Old Petworth (page 71) Mr. William Wild the exciseman was tricked by being tipped off to wait for the smugglers in a ditch "close to the gate which leads out of Parsonage Hill into Pondmead". The two barrells he in fact captured were filled with water while the smugglers "ran" 150 tubs elsewhere. Where was Pondmead? Parsonage Hill is the steep slope running up from the brook and into the Bartons.
- Q 15/3 Mr. Holt for many years agent to the Royal Exchange Office and a prodigious walker lived to be 92 and had his portrait painted by H.W. Phillips and drawn on stone by R.T. Lane, A.R.A., the resulting lithograph being dedicated to the patrons and presidents of the British and Foreign Temperance Society. According to the Tales (page 77) "the portrait of this fine old Sussex farmer is still to be seen." But where is it now? Do any of the lithograph copies survive?
- Q 15/4 In ancient times it was an offence to grind corn and grain anywhere but at the Lord's mill and the court rolls often contain references to grinding at unofficial private mills. In 1691 Mrs. Elizabeth Holway (Holloway) was fined for this offence, and again in 1692. She is described as keeping the "Bleu Lyon". We know from Miss Beck's article on Petworth Inns that the Blue Lion lay in what is now the churchyard on the north side of North Street but this is a very rare reference to it. Another offender in 1691 was "the widdow west at the Bell". Miss Beck makes no mention of this previously unknown inn. Where might it have been?

PROGRAMME OF MIDHURST AND PETWORTH GROUP OF  
SUSSEX TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

ALL WELCOME

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27TH 7.30 P.M. MIDHURST INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

"INSECTS AND PLANTS IN A MIDHURST GARDEN"

ILLUSTRATED TALK BY MR. M. EDWARDS

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TUESDAY MARCH 13TH 7.30 P.M. TILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

"WEST SUSSEX WOODLANDS INCLUDING THE MENS"

ILLUSTRATED TALK BY MR. J. PARKHURST

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SATURDAY APRIL 7TH. PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE

METHODIST HALL, NORTH STREET, MIDHURST. 10 A.M. - 12 A.M.

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SUNDAY APRIL 22ND. PAGHAM HARBOUR 11 A.M.

CAR PARK SIDLESHAM FERRY BRING LUNCH NO DOGS PLEASE

LEADER DAVID SNELLER

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PETWORTH SOCIETY "AT HOME"

LECONFIELD HALL

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

NO TICKETS - Refreshments and informal discussion.

"A COUNTRY CAMEO"

New colour slides and black and white slides from the Garland Collection.

MONDAY 5TH MARCH

LECONFIELD HALL

NO ADMISSION CHARGE - Members/non-members welcome.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP OUTINGS

WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH. BIGNOR HILL 2 P.M.

DOWNLAND WALK MAXIMUM 1 HOUR FLOWERS. LEADER PATRICK SYNGE

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL. PAGHAM HARBOUR 10 A.M. NO DOGS

SPRING MIGRANTS. BRING LUNCH. LEADER DAVID SNELLER

WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE 4 P.M. BIGNOR HILL

DOWNLAND WALK FLOWERS. LEADER PATRICK SYNGE

ANYONE REQUIRING TRANSPORT PLEASE INFORM DAVID SNELLER.

"THE THIRD EARL OF EGREMONT"

A talk by Mrs. Alison McCann of the West Sussex Record Office.

LECONFIELD HALL MONDAY 2ND APRIL

The West Sussex Archives Society extend a very warm welcome to members of the Petworth Society who are interested in local history.

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS - Petworth Public Library.

NOW ON "TRANSPORT and TRAFFIC 1880-1938"

APRIL "PORTRAITS and CHARACTERS"

Please tell your friends about these events

