



- Chairman - Colonel A.H. Maude, Stone House, Petworth.
Vice-Chairman - Sir Leslie Fry, Gore Hill House, Petworth.
Hon. Secretary - Mr. G.P.D. Adams, Byworth Rough, Petworth. (Tel. 42483).
Hon. Treasurer - Mr. R.A. Sneller, Upaven, Golden Square, Petworth.
Hon. Membership Secretary - Mrs. J. Boss, North Street, Petworth.
Committee - Mr. J.W. Davidson, Lord Egremont, Mr. P.A. Jerrome, Mrs. H.C. Oakes, Mrs. Sonia Rix, Lady Shakerley, Mrs. M. Sheridan, Mr. D.S. Sneller, Mr. P.M. Synge, Mr. K.C. Thompson.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Leconfield Hall on April 21. The members of the Committee were re-elected with the exception of Mr. R.F. Geeves, who had unfortunately been obliged for personal reasons to retire after some two years valuable service as honorary Treasurer.

A hundred or two of the photographs taken for the Heritage Year Survey were on display. Most of the buildings and streets in the town and Byworth are included in this collection. Mr. John Davidson and his helpers, especially Mr. Deane, Mr. Martin Miller and the architectural students from the United States who were at North House for some weeks in the Spring are to be congratulated on the result.

New Officers : At a Committee Meeting on May 21 Mr. Robert Sneller was elected Hon. Treasurer and co-opted as a member of the Committee. In order to relieve him of some of the work Mrs. Joan Boss has kindly agreed to act as Membership Secretary. Also Mr. Oakes is arranging the division of the town and parish into areas in which volunteer "street wardens" will assist in the distribution of bulletins etc. and in the collection of subscriptions. Details will be found on a later page.

Membership Cards are now issued as receipts to all who have paid their subscription for the current year ending March 15, 1977. Any member who has not received such a card is asked to forward the subscription (50p. for adults; 25p. under 18) to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. A. Sneller at Upaven, Golden Square, Petworth. (The brass letter box is to the left of the front door of Avenings.)

Those who prefer to pay by banker's order or by seven-year covenant may obtain the necessary forms on application. Banker's order forms were attached to the members' list issued with the February Bulletin. Membership now totals 263.

THE BY PASS

On Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23, the National Trust threw open the Park and Pleasure Grounds in order that the public might see the effect of the tunnel scheme approved by the County Council for the By Pass.

The route had been staked out on the ground and those trees which would be destroyed were marked.

Most Petworth people who went to see the pegged route seemed agreed that it would indeed, as the Trust suggests, be "a disaster to our heritage". Many expressed the view that if the Park must be invaded the "Park Route" originally approved by the Council would be less objectionable.

In the Sussex Federation Newsletter we are informed that "An inquiry into the Petworth by pass proposals is not expected before the end of this year and may be well into next year". The Trust in a widely circulated leaflet says "There will be a Public Inquiry in the early autumn of 1976 at which the National Trust will most vigorously resist the County Council's proposal".

The petition to the Secretary of State for the Environment, which visitors to Trust properties are being asked to sign, reads:-

Sir - While we are aware of the need for a bypass to relieve the traffic problem in Petworth town, we are opposed to any bypass that will harm Petworth House, its Park or Pleasure Grounds, which have been given to the National Trust for the benefit of the nation.

We ask you to ensure that this disaster to our heritage is avoided.

Thousands who know not Petworth, and many who do (for we are not all philistine vandals as some of the "media" might suggest) will cheerfully sign that petition. But for some months at least, while the traffic continues to harm Petworth town - to say nothing of its inhabitants - we must just "wait and see", as we have done for thirty or forty years.

COUNTY STRUCTURE PLAN

At the West Sussex Structure Plan Conference held at Worthing on May 24 the Society was represented by the Vice-Chairman, Sir Leslie Fry, and Mr. John Davidson.

The object of the exercise was to explain the various approaches which might be taken in planning the future of the County during the next fifteen years and the manner in which they might differ in the three regions into which the County is being divided for planning purposes - the Coastal Plain, Central Sussex and North-West Sussex (Chichester District north of the Downs), which of course includes Petworth.

Mr. Green, Chairman of the County Council, who presided, gave an assurance that "the wishes of the people of West Sussex will be a most important factor in all our deliberations".

Details of the choices are in the public libraries. Among local meetings scheduled is one at Midhurst on Thursday, June 17, at 7.30 p.m.

Light Industry for Petworth

It is good to know that at the request of the Parish Council the District Planning Committee is considering the development of some light industry at the north end of the town. The need for this in order to provide employment, especially for the younger generation has lately been increased by growth of population and lack of public transport.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY, 1976.

- Thurs. June 17 - County Structure Plan Meeting, Midhurst, 7.30.
Mon. June 21 - Exhibition "Petworth Miscellany" opens in Petworth Library.
Wed. June 23 - Garden Visit, Cooke's House, West Burton.

Fri. and Sat. June 25 & 26 - Visits to Gardens in Petworth.
 Sat. July 10 - Garden visits: Coates Manor and Byworth Edge.
 Sat. July 25 - Garden visit: The Old Rectory, Sutton.
 Fri. Nov. 5 - Lecture on Van Dyck by Sir Oliver Millar, Petworth House.
 Sat. Nov. 20 - Petworth Fair, Market Square.
 Fri. Dec. 17 - Petworth Society Christmas Party, Leconfield Hall.

Meetings of the Parish Council at Newlands have been fixed for July 15, September 16, and November 18, 1976.

"Tales of Old Petworth"

The Society has reason to be grateful to two members of the local history group, Mr. Jonathan Newdick and Mr. Peter Jerrome, for publishing independently this simple and often humorous record of life in the parish in the nineteenth century, also to Mr. George Garland, who rescued it from destruction as described in the preface and the foreword by Lord Egremont.

The Tales bring to life remarkable characters of all ranks and callings, many of whose descendants are still with us. Mr. Newdick's admirable illustrations, based on contemporary photographs and drawings, show various landmarks as they were in the last century.

Copies of the first edition can be obtained from the Bookshop in Lombard Street, or from the shop at Trowels in Pound Street, price £1.40.

THE PETWORTH SOCIETY "STREET WARDENS"

To facilitate the distribution of the Bulletin, collection of subscriptions etc., the following ladies and gentlemen have agreed to act as STREET WARDENS:-

Mr. Adams to cover Byworth.
 Mrs. Boss " " from George House - Hampers Green Youth Centre.
 Sir Leslie Fry.. " " Gorehill to Grove Street (Magistrates' Court).
 Mr. H.C. Oakes.. " " Sheepdowns.

Mrs. M. Sheridan to cover East Street, Middle Street, Angel Street and New Street.
 Mr. D. Sneller.. " " High Street, Golden Square, Market Square, Lombard Street, Saddlers Row & Church Street.
 Mr. Thompson .. " " Rothermead, Station Road, Wyndham Road, Dawtrey Road, Littlecote and also the Village of Graffham.

Other members who are willing to assist are asked to communicate with Mr. H.C. Oakes, Woodpeckers, Sheepdown Close (Pet. 42577).

As the Society is growing very rapidly, as many helpers as possible are required to enable an efficient organisation to be created.

LOCAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

At the local Council Elections on May 9, 1976, the following were elected:-

Chichester District Council (Petworth & Northchapel)

*Mr. Clarence F. Linton, Byworth Lea, Petworth.
 *Mrs. Janet Duncton, Brinksole Farm, Petworth.

Petworth Parish Council

*Mr. Reginald C. Battams, Hatchetts, Byworth.
 *Miss Margaret C. Bell, The Cobbles, Lombard Street.
 *Mr. Owen A.C. Bridger, 2 Hampers Green.
 *Captain Adrian R.L. Butler, R.N., Southover, Byworth.
 *Mr. Ronald Denman, Norman Place, East Street.
 *Mrs. Janet Duncton, Brinksole Farm.
 *Mr. Clarence F. Linton, Byworth Lea.
 *Mr. Kenneth T. Pennells, 6 Station Road.
 *Mr. William A. Peters, Little Boxgrove, Pound Street.
 Mr. Owen M. Shepherd, 5 Rosemary Close.
 *Mrs. Phyllis N.R. Sadler, 64 Hampers Green.
 *Mr. Frank Speed, Rosemary Cottage, High Street.
 *Mr. Hubert W. Speed, 348 Middle Street.
 Mr. John L. Tidy, 1 Littlecote.
 Mrs. Margaret E. Webster, 2 Sheepdown Cottages.

(* Former Councillor)

NEW MEMBERS 1976

The following have joined the Society since publication of the Members List last February, making the total now 263:-

Mrs. B. Brown, Pound House, Pound Street, Petworth.
Miss N. Case, Flat 3, Archway House, High Street, Petworth.
Miss D.S. Gundry, Woodmans, Fittleworth.
Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Huggett, 4 Littlecote, Petworth.
Miss J.M. Pearce, Meadow Cottage, North Mead, Petworth.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Pottington, Lombard Street, Petworth.
Mr. N.E. Reilly, Hungers Corner Farm, Byworth.
Lady M. Sanders, Bakehouse Cottage, Lombard Street, Petworth.
Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Sneller, Upaven, Golden Square, Petworth.

GROUP REPORTS

Countryside and Amenities Group

Leader: Mr. Patrick M. Synge, M.A., V.M.H., Byworth Edge. (Tel. 42471)

TOWN GARDEN VISITS : June 25 & 26

For Friday, June 25, and Saturday June 26 Mrs. Hand and Mrs. Sheridan have arranged a visit for members and their guests to some of the small gardens in Petworth. Many are not visible from the road. It is hoped that some of our hostsmay be able to offer surplus plants or cut flowers for sale on behalf of the Petworth Society fund for a Museum Room.

As so many members have been willing to co-operate, it has been decided to divide the visits according to their location. They will start at 2.30 each day from Alfreton House, Middle Street, and proceed on foot. Members will also be free to visit in their own time between 2.30 and 6 p.m. on the allotted day.

Friday 25th June

Petworth Gardens

Miss Botting, Archway House, High Street.
Mr. and Mrs. Hand, Fairfield House, High Street.
Mr. and Mrs. Denman, Norman Place, East Street.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Kennedy, Stringer's Hall, East Street.
Mr. and Mrs. Pottington, Martlet House, Lombard Street.
Mrs. M. Sheridan, Alfreton House, Middle Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Simpson, 14 Grove Lane.
Mr. and Mrs. David Sneller, The Square.
Mrs. Sneller and Mr. Robert Sneller, Avenings, Golden Square.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Stillwell, Daintrey House, East Street.

Saturday 26th June

Mr. and Mrs. Abbey, Preyste House, North Street.
Miss J. Bromley, June Cottage, North Street.
Mr. and Mrs. Cocksedge, Woodlea, Northmead.
Mrs. S. Dodd, Barton Cottage, Rectory Gate.
Mrs. B. Johnson, Glebe Cottage, Barton's Lane.
Miss Pearce, Meadow Cottage, Northmead.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Rix, Moonrakers, North Street.
Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury, Grasmere, Northmead.
Peter Jerrome, Trowels, Pound Street.

The following are other Group visits to gardens arranged for 1976. All members of the Petworth Society will be welcome:-

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

Cooke's House, West Burton. Miss J.B. Courtauld

Meet at garden at 3 p.m. Cooke's House is about a mile beyond Roman Villa at Bignor on approaching from Petworth. Old shrub roses are a feature of the garden, which surrounds the Elizabethan house.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

Coates Manor, Fittleworth. Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Thorp.

Meet at garden at 3 p.m. From Petworth turn left off Byworth-Sutton Road at signpost 'Coates' and house is on left after about 1 mile. A garden of unusual design and interest.

Byworth Edge. Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Synge.

After visiting Coates Manor about 4.30 p.m. Mrs. Synge will be pleased to offer tea, probably in the garden, to any members who would care to walk round the garden. Shrub roses and some lilies should be flowering. Would those coming please let Mr. or Mrs. Synge know a few days before. Tel: Petworth 42471.

SATURDAY, JULY 24

The Old Rectory, Sutton. Mr. and Mrs. O.S. Parry.

Meet at garden at 3 p.m. About 4 miles from Petworth on right of Byworth-Sutton road. Entrance is just before reaching church. Lilies and shrub roses and a good herbaceous border are features of this garden.

Patrick M. Synge.

Local History and Records Group

Leader: Mr. Peter A. Jerrome, M.A., Trowels, Pound Street (Tel.42562)

The Local History Group continues to make progress. The recent expedition by the staff of the Record Office to explore the uncatalogued treasures of the Petworth House cupboards unearthed a sixteen page complaint by the Earl of Northumberland "to the King's most excellent majesty", concerning the depredations of the River Park poachers. River Park (see A5/7) was a staunch Catholic centre and the Earl sees the killing of his deer very much as an act of religious hostility. Clearly this long complaint will give us a great deal more information on the poaching case and we are grateful to Mrs. McCann for letting us have a copy so quickly. For a change we looked at an Excise report on the capture of a smuggler red-handed with 21 full tubs of foreign spirits on the beach at Felpham. Not quite Petworth perhaps, but none the less interesting!

Another subject we are enquiring into is the history of Somerset Hospital in the early part of the nineteenth century. The documents are mainly petitions for rooms or pensions. They are easy to read, but provide a glimpse of the perils of life before the Welfare State. Interesting too in this regard is John Mance's famous letter from Petworth gaol concerning the making of gruel or hasty pudding, and his measures for deterring vagrants. Anyone who would like to join the handwriting group is welcome if they care to contact me.

Questions answered

You will see that, again with Mrs. McCann's help, we have the answers to a good proportion of the questions in the last Bulletin, but we are a little surprised that at the time of writing no one has ventured a few words about the last Petworth Park Friendly Society procession. Perhaps we may have something for the next Bulletin. An oral description given to me will be enough!

Exhibition and Meeting

A full meeting of the Group was held on June 8 at 7.30 p.m. in the

Leconfield Hall. The subject was "Towards a history of Market Square". All Members of the Society of course are very welcome at such meetings. The next Exhibition will open in the Public Library on Monday, June 21. It will have the title "A Petworth Miscellany". We hope this will be of as much interest at the previous ones.

P.A. Jerrome.

YOUNG HISTORIANS OF PETWORTH

Thanks to Dr. John Fines of the History Department of Bishop Otter Teachers Training College, Chichester, and Mr. Arthur Hill, we have been able to see ten valuable and well documented essays on Petworth subjects by students at the College. The titles and authors are:-

Thomas Sockett of Petworth, by Jane E. Read.

A study of Petworth Emigration Committee's Settlement in Canada 1832-4, by Ruth Dunnett.

Petworth Charities in late 18th nearly 19th Centuries, by Mary Young.

Petworth at the turn of the Century, by Sherree Thorne.

George O'Brien Wyndham, Art Collector and Patron, by Lesley Greenhalgh.

Three Paintings at Petworth, by P.B. Newbould.

Petworth Park Fete, 1890, by Lorraine Yeo.

Domestic Service at Petworth House, 1750-1890, by Lindsey Gossett.

Shooting at Petworth, 1860-1880, by Fiona Walker.

Quality of Life in three Sections of Late Georgian Society, by Robert Carter.

Each essay is the result of much useful research and contains lists of sources and references. Especially useful and readable are the short biography of Thomas Sockett, Rector of Petworth 1816-1859, and the study of the emigration to Canada in 1832. The latter is the product of much research in Canada. It is an admirable illustrated sequel to Lloyd Richardson's thesis on the same subject, of which a few copies are still available to members.

Dr. Fines has kindly offered to allow bound copies of the new essays to be kept in Petworth, where it is hoped they may be added to the Sussex reference collection in the Public Library.

A.H.M.

THE SUSSEX FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

by Michael J Burchall, FSG

The Sussex Family History Group was founded in November, 1972, and

held its Inaugural Meeting on 21st March, 1973. The Founder Chairman was Francis Leeson, FSG, and the present Chairman is the Rt.Hon. Lord Teviot, FSG. The principal aims of the Group are to bring together people who are interested in the study of family history in Sussex and elsewhere, to co-ordinate research and transcription of records, to give lectures about the county's and other records and how to use them, to hold discussion meetings at which more experienced members can help beginners, and to issue a publication, 'Sussex Family Historian', containing up-to-date information of general genealogical interest.

A library has been started that contains transcripts of records and reference books for those interested in family history in Sussex. The library is in Brighton and is for the use of members outside normal office hours, such as evenings and weekends, by arrangement.

To all interested in family history this Group can be of help and encouragement, irrespective of whether they have ancestors in Sussex. Those who have some knowledge of the subject will, it is hoped, find satisfaction in helping beginners and become actively involved in the practical side of the Group in its vital task of making transcriptions of parish registers and other records.

The address of the Hon. Secretary is: 4/33 Sussex Square, Brighton, BN2 5AB. (Telephone Brighton 62813 after 6 p.m.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q7/1. Miss Gwenda Morgan notes that certain gravestones in the churchyard have marked incisions high up on the stone. Are these incisions of any significance? There is a suggestion these are "Willstones" and that the incisions were made for holding wills. Is this true and if it is, what was the purpose of this practice?
- Q7/2. Mr. Don Simpson has the broken off fist of a tipstaff (i.e. the staff carried by a bailiff). It was found in a local cottage garden and was probably broken off during a scuffle with the authorities. The fist is beautifully worked and in good condition. What information is there about bailiffs and tipstuffs and their duties in past centuries?

Q7/3. Petworth Park Friendly Society (cf. Q6/3) was not the only Petworth Friendly Society in the days before the welfare state. A Tradesmen's Friendly Society existed in the 1890's with 19 members. A tattered balance sheet survives for the year 1890. Has anyone any other documentary evidence for this or other similar societies?

Q7/4. Petworth had at least three printers during the course of the nineteenth century - Goldring, J. Phillips and A.J. Bryant. Mr. Phillips had a "Library" in 1835. What do we know about these individual printers and their place of work? Did they succeed one another?

Q7/5. What do we know of the old water supply? There is certainly a large tank under the Market Square, from which apparently the stall-holders at the market (Q6/4) drew their water. The old lead piping still comes occasionally to light during building renovations. A covered reservoir stood on the site of The British Legion Headquarters in Grove Street in the nineteenth century.

Q7/6. What was the original purpose of the East Street "obelisk"? We think we have the answer to this, but other opinions may be current.

Q7/7. Where are the Square Oak and the tallest cedar tree in the United Kingdom?

ANSWERS

(E.g. Answer No. A5/3 answers Question No. 3 in Bulletin No. 5).

A5/3. The Window Tax Return of 1762 (Kenyon p.112) gives in Pound Street the following entry "James Coot, poor, now Joseph Gosden, 7" (ie lights). Clearly this is the

Gosden of Gosden's Yard, and the old name for Pound Place, still surviving in oral tradition, can be traced back apparently to the mid-eighteenth century.

- A6/1. Concerning the meeting of the poachers at "Grene Fair". Mrs. McCann suggests that if the dates fit this may have been one of the Fairs held annually at Wisborough Green on July 16th and September 20th. Wisborough Green is often referred to simply as "Green". This particular Fair appears to have fallen on hammas day (ie August 1st). Perhaps another lesser Wisborough Green fair?
- A6/2. Regarding Petworth's wells Mrs. McCann writes:
- If anyone wants to take the time and trouble, wells, pumps and springs are marked on the 10" O.S. map of Petworth made in 1875. A copy of this is available in the Record Office. It might be quite interesting to plot them on a modern map, and then see how many survive.
- A6/6. The old names on the 1882 map come from 16th and 17th Century Manor Surveys. Miss Beck notes in her article on Petworth Inns that the original Black Bull inn can be traced back as far as 1591. The Black Bull and an adjoining house, Mansers, were thrown into one building on the site of the present Star. The present name of the inn seems to come from the 1790's.
- A6/7. The Fair held at Petworth is mentioned as early as 1275 in the Hundred Roll (S.A.C. 84 p. 70). In 1666 it was of nine days' duration, but was suspended because of the plague. More information on the Fair and its history would be valuable.
- A6/8. A "tellow" is a tree left in an underwood to grow into a timber tree i.e. the standard in coppice and standard timber cultivation.