



- Chairman - Colonel A.H. Maude, Stone House, Petworth.
- Vice-Chairmen - Mr. P.A. Jerrome, Trowels, and
Mr. H.C. Cakes, Woodpeckers, Petworth.
- Hon. Secretary - Mr. G.P.D. Adams, Byworth Rough, Petworth.
(Tel. 42483)
- Hon. Assistant Secretary - Mrs. B.G. Johnson, Glebe Cottage, Bartons Lane.
- 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, Mrs. Sonia Rix,
Lady Shakerley, Mrs. M. Sheridan, Mr. D.S. Sneller,
Mr. P.M. Synge, Mr. K.C. Thompson.

SERING CLEANING

At a time when so much depressing news comes to us daily from other parts of the world, at home and abroad, it is cheering to be able to record considerable progress in matters that concern the Petworth Society and the conservation area. This Jubilee Year may be remembered not only for the celebrations now being organized by an energetic committee representing all local bodies and interests, but for the restoration and bringing to new life and use of several of Petworth's old buildings. Many have been unoccupied and in need of repair for too long. Some details of plans are given below, also reports from the Leconfield Memorial Hall and Jubilee Celebrations Committees.

On two days at the first week-end of March an encouraging number of volunteers, including many "under-twenties", did valuable work in preparing the ground above the footpath "Round the Hills" for tree-plantings. We hope for an equally good response for work on repair of the ruined bridges over the Rectory Brook.

THOMPSON'S HOSPITAL

Members will be pleased to know that work is now in progress on the emergency repairs required at Thompson's Hospital in the interest of public safety.

The complete repairs to the building have been approved in principle by the recently appointed trustees, but work covering the complete rehabilitation cannot be commenced until the application for grants has received the approval of the Housing Corporation and the Department of the Environment.

The trustees are optimistic that approvals will be obtained in the fairly near future.

HISTORIC LINKS IN EAST STREET

Work is also in progress on the former Girls' School, built as a chapel in 1819. Plans have been passed for its conversion to a private residence. These provide for the removal of the unsightly extension on the East Street front, and its restoration to something like its original appearance. A small courtyard will remain behind the Georgian iron railings, which happily escaped destruction for munitions during two wars. These railings are of interest since they incorporate the Percy badge of a crescent, which gave their name to the Half Moon inns in Petworth, Northchapel and elsewhere in Sussex. The crescent badge is carved also, together with a Tudor rose, on the archway of Norman Place on the opposite side of the street.

Other buildings on which work is already in hand or almost completed are the cottages in Middle Street the stables of New Grove and the outside stairway of the Petworth Park Hotel, better known as The Swan, and the Hermitage.

Plans have also been submitted for a lean-to 'bus shelter on the paved area in the north-east corner of the Leconfield Hall; and others involving little or no external alteration for Old Bank House in The Square and for the building on the other side of the Tavern. But the future of the important site of Harwoods former garage and the car park where the "Iron Room" once stood, still awaits decision; the derelict cottages at the top of North Street remain a disgrace to Petworth, and too much litter is always with us.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society is on Wednesday 29th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Leconfield Hall. Please make an especial effort to come. It is an important meeting for the future of the Society when it is hoped that some progress will be made towards forming new groups within the Society thus considerably broadening its scope and appeal. Your attendance is imperative if you wish to see the Society fulfil the kind of role that you would wish it to fulfil.

PETWORTH JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 1977

The Committee formed last December under the Chairmanship of Mr. Tony Whitcomb, is in the process of organising celebrations of The Queen's Silver Jubilee. The idea is to make the celebrations both memorable and enjoyable. The following events have been booked:-

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 13 | Evening Showing of the Royal Family Film at the Leconfield Hall. |
| May 14 | Afternoon Free Showing of the above film for Darby and Joan Club and Pensioners, with tea. |
| April 2 | Social Evening at the Leconfield Hall by the Edwardians. |
| June 3 | Dance at the Leconfield Hall. |
| June 4
and 5 | Horticultural Show and Petworth Photographs Exhibition at the Leconfield Hall. |
| June 4 | Swimming Gala at the Swimming Club. |
| June 5 | Service for all denominations at St. Mary's Parish Church with the Boys of Seaford College Choir participating. |
| June 7 | Carnival Procession round the town from Grove Lane to Petworth Park by kind permission of Lord Egremont and the National Trust. |

The events in the Park will include Children's Sports organised by Mrs. M. Purser and the P/T Association, Arena and Aquatic Displays organised by Mr. C. Huggett, and Dancing round a Maypole. A Souvenir Programme will be brought out as soon as possible with a prize for the winning numbered programme. There will also be prizes for the best dressed Floats. Names of those wishing to put a float in the procession can be sent as soon as possible to the

the Procession Organiser, Cmdr. Bill, Shielings, North Street, Petworth. Mr. H.C. Oakes of Woodpeckers, Sheepdown Close, Petworth, is in charge of the Decorations in the Town and has already made preliminary enquiries. We hope this will be a splendid display by all shop owners and householders on the route. Mr. Gristwood is arranging for the pupils of the Herbert Shiner School to propagate red, white and blue flowers for window boxes in The Square.

It is hoped that St. Mary's Church Bells will ring out on the morning of June 7th and that a bonfire will be lit on the hill above Shimmings Valley.

As a permanent Memorial to this great occasion a "tidying up and planting programme" above the footpath "Round the Hills" is to take place. Volunteers assembled there to commence the clearing work at the week end of March 5th and 6th. Mr. Cobby of the Horticultural Society has kindly consented to be in overall charge of this scheme and to order the low flowering trees, shrubs and plants which will be necessary. This planting work will transform a rough piece of ground into a pleasant area for people to enjoy the fine view and will add an amenity to Petworth. The Committee are very grateful to the Petworth Society for agreeing to make some repairs to the two fine bridges below this walk.

M.E. WEBSTER.
Secretary.

PROBLEMS OF THE LECONFIELD HALL COMMITTEE

The Leconfield Memorial Hall is an expensive building to keep in good order, painting, electrical and heating faults, replacements, and pigeon control are constant problems. So, unfortunately, is the effect of the constant vibration caused by the heavy traffic passing within a few feet of the old building.

But this year we have had added expenses. Ventilators were ripped off the roof by the fierce gales, and have had to be replaced, and even worse - the bust of King William III was found to be unsafe on its pedestal! When lowered carefully to the ground, it was found to be terribly damaged by weather corrosion, helped by the fouling by many pigeons. As this work, one of only three in the country by the great French sculptor Honore Pelle, is of national importance we were fortunate in getting the kind co-operation of Lord Egremont, who has housed it for us; and who introduced us to Mr. Mason, an expert restorer from the Victoria and Albert Museum. He is now giving King William an extensive face lift!

The final blow has been the new Fire Safety Regulations. We do comply with the rules governing exits, electrical wiring, extinguishers, and fire proofing - but have had to instal an alternative battery lighting system for use in power cuts, which is proving very expensive.

So we have held a Coffee Morning towards the cost of repairs. It was cheering indeed to receive ungrudging and generous help from every Group using the Hall, whose efforts raised the splendid total of £135, with no expenses to be deducted.

After such a grand start, we face the future more hopefully - our Hall is a building of grace and character, and a well-known landmark. It is in constant use from Groups ranging from tiny tots to old-age pensioners. As long as the Hall is so much needed by so many in our community, the Trustees and Management Committee will do their utmost to keep it in good repair.

Elizabeth Shakerley,
Chairman.

WAITING FOR THE BYPASS

The following is an extract, headed "Pause in Petworth", from the current "Sussex Federation Newsletter" (No.33, Feb.-April 1977):-

Although a Public Inquiry into the proposals for the Petworth bypass is a long way ahead yet, the argument continues as fiercely as ever. The division between those opposing and those supporting the County Council's tunnel route through Petworth Park has become more clearly defined with recent decisions by both the Federation and the Petworth Society to object to the tunnel. The Federation's resolution, reached at the last meeting of the Executive on 3rd November last, reads:

"The Federation considers that to avoid continuous damage to Petworth Town, some alternative arrangements for heavy traffic are needed; but, nevertheless takes the view that the proposed route through the Petworth Park in a tunnel within 33 yards from the House is quite unacceptable and it would do grave damage to a house and park of international importance. The Federation will support this view by providing evidence to that effect at any Public Inquiry which is held concerning the matter."

In any case, the possibility of any by-pass is remote until the country's finances improve. Talks continue between the West Sussex C.C. and the National Trust but there is no question of a Public Inquiry, possibly for years. The Joint Committee (West) has decided to remove the matter from its agenda until there are new developments. To ease the passage of traffic through Petworth, the County Engineer has undertaken to review the direction signs in the town.

"JUGGERNAUT" PROTEST

The Society accepted an invitation from the Wisborough Green Trust to join with them and several other Amenity Societies in West Sussex in sending a cable to the Transport Commission of the European Community, Brussels, protesting about the proposal to allow 40 ton motor lorries to operate on British roads. This cable was followed by a letter explaining in greater detail the reason for the protest.

We also wrote to Mr. Anthony Nelson, M.P., asking him to support the protest and to enquire into the reported lack of Inspectors at Ports of Entry into this country, which may allow lorries of 40 tons and over to get in. In his reply Mr. Nelson said he had taken these matters up with the Secretary of State for Transport and would let us know when he has an answer.

The Director of Transport, E.E.C., has replied that the E.E.C. is at present engaged in a programme of legislation on the motor vehicle which will provide for steadily increasing standards of safety, cleanliness and quietness. The maximum permitted sizes of vehicles, he says, are very similar in all member states and no general increase is proposed, so there is no question of much larger vehicles appearing on British roads. There is, however, a great diversity in permitted total weights and axle loadings.

The Commission's proposal incorporates the lower axle loadings favoured by the United Kingdom and three other Member states with the aim of limiting infrastructure damage and vibration. The higher total weight (40 tonnes) to be permitted for one load was still to be considered.

THE VAN DYCK LECTURE

We were privileged to hear from such a distinguished authority as

Sir Oliver Millar, C.V.O., F.S.A., F.B.A., Surveyor of the Queen's pictures a most accomplished lecturer on Van Dyck on the evening of Friday November 5, 1976. The lecture was held in the Grinling Gibbons carved room at Petworth House: the State Rooms were open and several examples of the artist's work were on view. Sir Oliver illustrated his talk with two projectors working together and this enabled him to show clearly some interesting and unusual comparisons between pictures at different houses. It was a very scholarly lecture, such as could only be given by a real art connoisseur with enormous historical knowledge and study of the artist, and this Sir Oliver conveyed to us without ever failing for a word. We are most grateful to him.

Lord Egremont took the chair and introduced the speaker. Colonel Maude, Chairman of the Society, proposed a vote of thanks afterwards to the lecturer and to Lord Egremont and the National Trust for allowing us to use such magnificent premises. We also owe our thanks to Mr. Snow, the projectionist, who worked both lanterns with unusual skill. After the talk members who had filled the Gibbons Room to capacity, adjourned and took a glass of wine in The Marble Hall and after much cheerful and appreciative talk moved among the pictures before the evening ended.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, 17 DECEMBER, 1976.

The Petworth Society's Christmas party held at the Leconfield Memorial Hall proved as popular as those of the previous two years. The Society was especially honoured by some members of the Society itself. Miss Delia Woolford, now internationally well-known as a Contralto, sang some delightful Christmas Carols and was accompanied by Miss Marjorie McAdams, Music Mistress at St. Michael's School. Mr. John Farrar, Mus. Bac., played a pianoforte version of "Finlandia" by Sibelius. The Petworth Floral Art Group provided table decorations and a much admired floral display.

A buffet supper was arranged by Lady Fry and her helpers for members and their friends; beer, wine and soft drinks were also served. The net profit was £106.

The Party next year will be on Twelfth Night, Friday, January 6th, 1978, in the Leconfield Hall.

NEW MEMBERS, 1977

The following have joined the Society since the publication of our

last Bulletin (No.8) in November:-

Mr. and Mrs. David Brookfield, Heriots, Sutton, Pulborough.
Mrs. C. Chamberlain, 5 East View Close, Lavant, Chichester.
Mr. and Mrs. R.T. Emmett, Shepherd's Hey, 27 Sheepdown Drive.
Mr. H.W. Jeans, Field House, Stedham, Midhurst.
Mrs. E. Saunders, 24 Grove Lane.
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Walch, Petworth Gallery, Lombard Street.

LOST LEADERS

On one Sunday in January this Society lost two of its original members whose long service to the community had won the affection and respect of more than one generation in Petworth. Both will be sadly missed, for they died at an age when one hoped they had many years of useful life before them.

Mrs. Doris Mary Pennicott died on January 23 at her home in Duncton, where she and her family had joined her father, Mr. Thomas Upton, after her mother's death. The list of local public services in which she took an active, often a leading part, is a long one. It includes the Parish Councils of Petworth and Duncton, the Petworth Rural District Council, the West Sussex County Council, the Chichester Conservative Association, the Spastics Society, the Women's Institute, the Mothers' Union, the Road Safety Committee and many others. She was specially concerned with education as Chairman of the Governors of the Herbert Shiner School and of Petworth Primary School, and a Governor of Midhurst Grammar School and several other institutions.

"Judy", as she was affectionately known by her many friends, came of a family well known in Petworth for a century or more, and was well versed in local history. As Chairman of the County Council's Library and Archives Committee she gave valuable advice and support for the plan since approved by the Council for an extension of the Petworth public library as a centre for this Society and a local museum. Planning application for this is being submitted as a preliminary to an effort to raise the necessary funds later this year.

The memorial service for Mrs. Pennicott held in Petworth Church on February 8, was attended by a large congregation. An address was given by Mr. Green, the Chairman of the County Council on which she had served for 14 years.

Mr. Arthur William Hill, who died at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, after a heart attack, was about to retire at the age of 60 from the Headmastership of Petworth Primary School, which he had held since 1950.

In those days the boys', girls' and infants' schools were situated in widely separated parts of the town, mostly in buildings provided by the generosity of the 3rd Earl of Egremont and his heirs. The resulting strain on the Headmaster was to some extent relieved in 1963 when the new primary school in Dawtrey Road was opened. It has been said that a school is as good as its headmaster; if so, Petworth Primary must be a very good school, for Arthur Hill and his wife never spared themselves in its service, though he found time to become the first honorary secretary of this Society, and a member of the Parochial Church Council and other bodies.

Mr. George Hugh Kenyon F.S.A., of Kirdford, who died on January 16, aged 78, was another to whom Petworth and this Society is indebted, not only for his book "Petworth Town and Trades, 1610-1760", reprinted in 1962 from the Sussex Archaeological Society's collections, but for advice and help freely given for many years. He was a leading authority on the Sussex iron and glass industries and a founder of Kirdford Growers Ltd.

Countryside and Amenities Group

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

TREES AND THE TUNNEL BY-PASS ROUTE

Now that the retention of the Tunnel route, without the suggestion of any other alternative, in the County Council's building plans is recommended by their roads and transportation Committee it is worth looking at the destruction of fine trees which will be involved, since this is much greater than most members of the Petworth Society are likely to realise. In present economic circumstances any route may be unlikely to be built in the near future and the National Trust opposition, with which in this case I heartily agree, may cause further postponement; but we cannot be sure, and irreparable damage to these vital trees, which I consider

are integral to the amenities of the area, may occur meanwhile as a first step in the preparation of the site. Many other road improvements and new routes have been recommended for pruning or for cancellation, so we may assume that the recommendation for those left may bring their construction nearer.

The National Trust has marked out the route which is clear for all to see and it shows clearly what we shall lose. The route causes destruction of many of the finest trees in the Park and Pleasure Grounds, which can by no means be retrieved within two years, or even twenty, of new landscaping. The mature trees are likely to have taken 100 years or more to grow to their present height and size. Many are unusually fine specimens of eighty to a hundred feet in height and their tops are in good health in most cases. They may live for fifty years or more yet; this will have given time for young trees to grow up and replace them.

Two very fine groups, which are integral to the framing of the house and a balanced view of it, will go completely. This house in particular needs trees to enhance its architecture at the two sides since it is purposely kept bare in front. One group is of horse-chestnuts to the south-west as you look at the west front of the house or from it, and only 60 or 70 yards away: the other is of mixed deciduous trees on the other side to the north-east and is within 30-40 yards of the house. Both are now in good health. The latter group includes a rather unusual broad-leaved beech as well as others which are particularly valuable as being of varying ages.

Further along leading to the Pleasure Ground, which contains many of the finest trees, are some magnificent sweet chestnuts, 80-100 feet tall with beautiful furrowed bark which would have to go. Deciduous trees which are endangered here include liquidambers, tulip trees, oriental planes and other less common trees. There are also some very fine Silver Firs of several species endangered, but the greatest glory of this part of the Park which is unfortunately right in the middle of the proposed route, just before it dives underground coming from the north, is the Cedar of Lebanon. It is reliably recorded as the tallest in England at 132 feet with a girth of 18 feet. It has a very fine, tall, straight bole and appears to have healed over although scarred long ago on one side. What is even more important, it has a good vigorous clean top which can indicate many more years of growth as long as its

windscreen of other trees is retained around it. Surely this is a monument deserving every care, a case worth a tree-preservation order if ever there was one.

There are also many very fine Japanese maples of 20 feet or more, most decorative in autumn, tall hamamelis in flower in winter and big banks of tall hydrangeas of a good blue, which do not seem to have suffered from the drought, besides other unusual and exotic shrubs which would take many years to replace and which would have to go since they are on the route. Fortunately the two classical little buildings and also most of the finest Rhododendrons, which should be at their best about the time of the Silver Jubilee will escape although they may be left rather bare.

These factors of exceptional tree destruction do not affect the original Park route to anything like the same extent. For that the price is about the same, and it seems to me to be worth further consideration both by the County Council and also by the National Trust as being far less destructive to the amenities.

There are also other factors against the tunnel route. No one would be likely to obtain any pleasure in driving through a tunnel, while the original Park route could make one of the most lovely routes in the County. No one can tell with absolute certainty that over the years the vibration could not affect the foundations of the house. Also the crossing into this route from A.272 will sever the residents of Hampers Green from the town of which it is now a part and also make more difficult any entrance into the Park from this area

Patrick M. Synge.

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDERS

Among a number of Public Path Orders recently issued and placed in public libraries are two within the Parish of Petworth. Like most of the others they entail minor diversions to avoid interference with agricultural land.

W.C.C.C. (Petworth) Public Path (No. 653) Diversion Order 1976 diverts the bridleway south of Moor Farm to follow the edge of

Daffodil Wood and run through Pondtail Copse to join the existing highway to the west.

W.S.C.C. (Petworth) Public Path Diversion Order (No. 2894) 1976 diverts part of a little-used footpath from near Trofts, Byworth, to Haslingbourne: but it does nothing to reopen the once much used footpath past the Virgin Mary Spring.

Local History and Records Group

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

The week-long exhibition "Petworth Trades" at the National Westminster Bank was very successful, as I think were the Victorian lantern slides shown at the Leconfield Hall in November. We are very grateful to the Herbert Shiner School for the loan of the overhead projector, also to Mr. K.C. Thompson for operating it. The very many photographs of Petworth over the last century or more can be shown by means of an episcopes and we would be pleased to present a selection of these, if members are interested and the headmaster of the Herbert Shiner School allows us the use of the episcopes. I think we would have to give such a show at the school itself because the episcopes is heavy and unsuitable for moving any great distance.

A Charge of Treason

The handwriting group is gathering its collective breath for an assault on the 18 page defence by William James and his confederates against the Earl of Northumberland's charge of treason (1609). When we have read this key document we may be able, with Mrs. McCann's guidance, to attempt a definition of the various positions in this hitherto insufficiently known dispute. I think 1977 is a crucial year for the group in that we must now try to set out and prepare for publication our findings and conclusions on this complex manorial dispute, perhaps too on the poaching depositions, the North Street fracas of 1804, and the history of Petworth Goal. Obviously it is important that our results eventually become

available for others outside our immediate circle.

Members who remarked on the quotation about the Fair in 1856 from the West Sussex Gazette may be interested in this quotation from a letter written by the Duke of Somerset dated Nov. 17th, 1702, (PHA 6322): He writes to his steward: "If you doe find right sound sheep that are small and of Dorsetshire kind, then you may buy what stock you think convenient at the ffayre."

Questions and Answers

No answers in this Bulletin, but for a change we append some questions to which we do have the answers. We certainly received a good deal of information about the old horse-drawn dustcart which obviously rides still in the memory of many, but this brings in its turn another question. We must try to do something positive about tapping the oral Tradition of Petworth before it is too late. Miss Maxse has made a pioneer beginning with this and I know that the Record Office will give us every help and encouragement. The project need not necessarily be time-consuming and it's something for anyone young or old, who has an interest in the Petworth of a preceding generation.

We are very grateful to Lord Egremont for the gift of some prayer cards, an exhortation, a catechism and a poster from the old Sutton Union Workhouse. It would be difficult to find anything that better catches the ethos of workhouse life than these prayers and exhortations. We hope to display these objects at a later exhibition.

Useful Books

Lastly a note on books. The first print of "Tales of Old Petworth" is now virtually exhausted and the second print to hand. For the connoisseur of such matters the two printings may be distinguished by the correction in the second edition of "anecdotal" to "anecdotal" on page 7! Last but not least I should mention the new edition of "Local History in West Sussex - a Guide to Sources" by Kim C. Leslie and Timothy J. McCann. It is exactly what the subtitle indicates - a guide to sources - and quite invaluable for the local historian. It is available direct from the

West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, and at 75p + 15p postage and packing, very much of a bargain in these inflationary days.

P.A.J.

Some Questions with answers - for a change!

1. Who saw a box-hedge "just as I came out of Petworth, more than twelve feet broad and about fifteen feet high"?
2. Who "lived in almost regal state, intimated his commands to his servants by signs, and when he travelled the roads were cleared of all obstruction and of idle bystanders"?
3. What might deceive the "unwary rustic" of 1864 as he looked at the Market House?
4. What reason had Petworth to be grateful to Parson Edmonds?
5. Why Pound Street? What other names has it had?
6. Where might one have seen "a place as chock full of spirits as ever it could hold, ... and at the top window ... was put their signal eights"?
7. Where might one have found
 - 1) The Half Moon.
 - 2) The Running Horse.
 - 3) The Black Bull.
 - 4) The Great White Hart?
8. Where was Petworth's old Post Office?

9. Who was shot at as he preached in Petworth pulpit, escaped and hid several days in a hollow tree?
10. Why was Petworth Fair not held on November 20th, 1666?

ANSWERS (Details may be found in earlier bulletins by members wise enough to file them)

1. William Cobbett in 1823.
2. Charles Seymour, 6th Duke of Somerset d.1748 (Arnold p. 36).
3. The clock which was stopped, and by which he might set his watch. (Arnold p. 92).
4. A supply of piped water to part of Petworth. (Arnold p. 74).
5. The cattle pound for strayed animals lay on the Tillington Road corner - it was finally demolished in 1937. Also known formerly as Sowter Street or Mill Lane.
6. Cottage at bottom of Hunger's Lane. The eights were smugglers' signals. (Tales p. 58).
7. 1) Site of National Westminster Bank. 2) North Street. 3) The Star. 4) Austen's in the Square.
8. Pellett's in the Square.
9. The Royalist Rev. Cliver Whitby during the Civil War. (Arnold p. 64).

10. To avoid the spread of plague. (Arnold p. 79).

TOWN HALL BELLS

In an admirably illustrated article on Petworth in the "West Sussex Gazette" of January 22, 1977, Mr. John Batten asked "What about the three bells dangling on an odd structure above the roof of the Leconfield Hall. Do they ever ring? For what?"

They certainly did ring to call the Fire Brigade until the sirens took over in the 1939-45 War. I well remember hearing them jangling and looking from a window at Westways (now the Police Station and then the residence of the Misses Mary and Edith Upton) to see Coultershaw Mill going up in flames. But had they another use connected with the Market, as has been suggested? And when did they last ring?

A.H.M.

SOME SIXTEENTH CENTURY DOCUMENTS

Although the Petworth House Archives contain a massive amount of material, very little survives from the medieval period. The earliest period in fact for which any considerable documentation survives is the 16th century, and the Local History Group have been studying several documents from this period.

The earliest was PHA 1403 dating from 1499-1500. This is a list of those that had lands in the Conyger Park. Despite its early date it is written in an early but perfectly legible form of the secretary hand, and in English. Later, but more illuminating, is PHA 1413, the Survey of the Honor taken in 1575, with its account of the Manor house, parks, and woods before their restoration by the 8th Earl of Northumberland in 1576.

It is clear that at this time old Petworth House was in considerable disrepair. It contained inner and outer courts, and gardens with gatehouse, stables and dovehouse. The house over the pantry

and buttry was in ruinous condition and this had affected the rooms underneath. The large kitchen with its two great ovens of slate, slate stone, and shingle was in great decay. The great hall too stood in need of iron and glass for windows and the chapel is reported to be "in some decaie, but very necessarie to be repaired and manteyned, and yf his L(ordshype) have ocasyone to lye or kepe house there".

The Survey goes on to list the separate parks. First the Great Park "sette with oke and beches and hath in the same at this time no dere." Next the Little Park again "sette with okes and beches", but more barren than the Great Park and containing "XXXvii deare whereof are male deare xvii". The third park is the New or "Coniegrave" Park called "Newe" because some of the land had but recently been enclosed. The freeholders and copyholders were obligated to put up "certeine perches of pale about the greate Parke and little Parke as in the book of Survey appeareth". By an ancient roll called the Pallisers Roll two of the copyholders were chosen every year to superintend the upkeep of fences.

The next sheet gives the measurement of the outlying parks: the Outwood Cin the northern part of the present park between Snowhill and the Pheasant Copse wall (see Lord Leconfield, "Petworth Manor" May XV), Middlecarr, Hillgrove, Colhook, Frith, Frithfold, Rat Palling and the Leiths. Wood in hedgerows, lanes and parcels of waste belonged to the Lord of the Manor. Robert Ford was keeper of the Conyger Park and there survives (PHA 423) an account of his for mast (i.e. beech, oak and chestnut fruit used as food for swine) from 1578.

G.R. Batho (Household Papers pp. 103-107) transcribes a parallel but fuller view of the house when the 8th Earl took possession in 1574. This document from Alwiche tells us that in that year Mr. Covert, keeper of the Little Park was in arrears to the Earl, as was also Robert Ford in the Conyger.

P.A.J.

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

We are grateful to the following donors of recent additions to the Society's collection:-

Mr. F.W. Pennicott, of Duncton,
(in memory of the late Mrs. D.M. Pennicott) -
Collection of Reproductions of Printed Maps
of Sussex published between 1575 and 1825.

Miss Older, of New Street, -
Memoir of John Trevenen Penrose
(Rector of Petworth 1906-1919)
by Frances J. Skinner
(A.R. Mowbray & Co. Ltd. 1927)

The late Mr. A. W. Hill -
Counters in use in Petworth Boy's School up
to the time it was bombed in 1942.

Mr. A. W. Sherwin, of Grove Street, -
Quill Cutter.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY CARRIERS

"The Present State of London" by Thomas De Laune, Gent., 1681, contains "An Alphabetical Account of all the Carriers That comes to The several Inns in London, Westminster and Southwark from all Parts of England and Wales, with the respective days of their Coming in and Going out", including:-

Pettworth in Sussex

Mr. Startup, Clarke and Roberts, Carriers, come to The White Hart in Southwark on Wednesday, goes out on Thursday.

(History does not relate at what time Mr. Startup started up, or when he arrived at Petworth.)

THE PETWORTH SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Leconfield Hall on Friday 29th April 1977 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 1976.
2. To receive the Chairman's report.
3. To receive the Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 15th March 1977 and the Honorary Treasurer's report thereon.
4. To amend Rule 5 of the Constitution and Rules of the Society as follows:-

Delete:- "There shall be an elected Committee of not more than 15 residents in the Parish of Petworth, to include a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, all of whom shall relinquish their offices every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting".

Insert:- "There shall be a Committee consisting of a President and not more than 15 elected members resident in the Parish of Petworth, to include a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, all of whom shall relinquish their offices every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting".

5. To elect a President.
6. To elect members of the Committee.

The Committee elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and nominate the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer at their first meeting following the A.G.M.

The following members of the existing Committee offer themselves for re-election:-

Mr. G.P.D.Adams, Mrs. J. Boss, Mr. J.W.Davidson, Lord Egremont, Mr. P.A.Jerrome, Mr. H.C.Oakes, Mrs. G.C.Rix, Elizabeth Lady Shakerley, Mrs. M.Sheridan, Mr. D.S.Sneller, Mr. R.A.Sneller, Mr. P.M.Syngé, Mr. K.C. Thompson.

Mrs. B.Johnson, co-opted to the Committee, also offers herself for election.

Members of the Society may propose and second other candidates (with their consent); letters for that purpose ~~shall~~ reach the Hon. Secretary at Byworth Rough, Byworth, Petworth not later than Wednesday 13th April 1977.

7. Future plans
 - a) To consider the creation of new sections.
 - b) To consider the provision of a centre for the Society.
8. To transact any other business.

By order of the Committee.....

G.P.D.Adams
Hon. Secretary.

At the conclusion of business the meeting will be addressed by Mr. D. Briggs, the County Architectural Adviser.

Light refreshments will be served.

There will be facilities for paying this years subscription at the meeting.

RESEARCH REPORT

The present study is a continuation of the work done by the author in his previous papers. It is a study of the factors which influence the rate of growth of the human body. The study was conducted over a period of five years and involved the measurement of the height and weight of a large number of individuals at regular intervals. The results of the study show that the rate of growth is influenced by a number of factors, including heredity, environment, and nutrition. The study also shows that the rate of growth is highest during the first few years of life and then gradually declines. The study is of interest to those who are concerned with the health and development of the human body.

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1. Smith, J. H. (1925). The influence of heredity on the rate of growth of the human body. *Journal of Biological Science*, 15, 1-10.

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3. Brown, C. D. (1935). The influence of nutrition on the rate of growth of the human body. *Journal of Biological Science*, 25, 1-10.

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