



Chairman's Letter

Dear Member;

This is the first Bulletin for 1978, so very best wishes for a Peaceful and Pleasant Year. In fact, it promises to be a busy and entertaining one. Already a number of lectures and outings have been arranged and some of these appear in "The Diary": more are contemplated.

A further meeting has taken place in connection with the extension to the Public Library, to provide a Meeting and Exhibition Room, at which a representative of the COUNTY COUNCIL was present and he made a number of helpful and generous suggestions.

Please note that subscriptions for 1978/79 are due and payable on March 15th. These should be paid to the Treasurer - Mr. R.A. Sneller or, if desired, payment can be made at the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 12th at the Leconfield Hall, details of which appear in this issue.

Please try to be present as it promises to be an important gathering.

Yours sincerely,

HILTON C. OAKES.

THE RELIEF ROAD SUB-COMMITTEE

I feel a word would be appropriate about the sub-committee under my chairmanship that looked into the Council's suggested relief road plan at the request of the Society's full Committee because I think there is some misunderstanding of our position. We were not asked to comment either on the Park route or on the Speed route or indeed on any other route but the one in question. Neither were we asked to take up a position on these various suggestions and we did not do so. We were asked to look very closely at the relief road

plan as it stood, on the assumption that this was the only likely short-term solution. We felt the plan was ingenious and not unreasonable. We did not say it was ideal, but we did feel that Petworth must very quickly have some respite from heavy traffic and that this would in a measure provide it. What however we were more concerned about in releasing our conclusions to the press was to draw the attention of members of this Society and of non-members too to some of the difficulties and obscurities in the plan as we saw it. This we have done and we have passed our comments to the County Council for their attention. As I see it this is the function of a sub-committee of the Petworth Society.

I have spoken to Members who felt they should first have been consulted, but as I have explained to them, I cannot entirely agree. We were told that the plan was confidential and our prime concern in any case was less to proclaim our own feelings as to whether the plan should be carried out as to give helpful and informed comment. Membership of the Petworth Society does not preclude anyone from disagreeing with a sub-committee and a public meeting too was to be held at which opinion could be aired. I feel very strongly that if the Petworth Society is to be worth-while, it must make its voice heard on issues of this kind.

For Members' convenience we reproduce here the general heading of our report. The newspaper heading was not written by us.

"No one could see the present plan as a panacea and the document does not claim to be this. However, if a route is to be taken through the town, the proposed Town Relief Road has much to be said for it, despite the disadvantages openly admitted in the consultative document (Paragraph 7). Petworth's old and not-so-old buildings urgently need relief from traffic vibration and pollution, and this compromise plan does in a measure provide it. Time is not on our side."

In the light of the public meeting I still feel that Petworth had everything to gain and nothing to lose from a further consideration of the Council proposals.

P.A.J.

A LOCAL CURE FOR HERNIA

In her book "The Folklore of Sussex" (B.T. Batsford, London,

1973) Jacqueline Simpson quotes from "Mrs. Latham's Folklore Record, 1878", an account of the custom of "curing a child of hernia by passing it nine times every morning on nine successive days at sunrise through a cleft in a sapling ash tree. In the neighbourhood of Petworth some cleft ashes may be seen, through which children have very recently been passed."

Does any trace or record remain of these ash saplings of 100 years ago?

LOCAL HISTORY AND RECORDS GROUP

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

The Exhibition 'Petworth Fifty Years Ago', while small compared with the Jubilee Exhibition, appears to have been of interest. Many senior residents could remember people from the photographs or even recognise themselves. The world of these early photographs, mainly taken by Mr. Garland, is less remote from us than the Petworth of Walter Kevis. It is a sad thought that this was to be the last such exhibition given during Mr. Garland's lifetime.

Our next effort will not be in the Public Library, but in the Leconfield Hall on the weekend of June 17th and 18th in conjunction with the Horticultural Society. It will be a very large exhibition along the lines of last year's Jubilee display. We shall wish this year to find out whether there is public support for making such a combined show an annual event.

"Petworth Fifty Years Ago" was the first in a series of spring events organised by the Local History Group. By the time these notes appear we shall have had the next, a new collection of slides of old Petworth belonging to Mr. E. Vincent and kindly lent by him to the Society for the evening. After that on Wednesday, March 8th, comes the long-awaited "Early Memories of Petworth" with tape-recordings by Miss V. Maxse. This is at 7.30 p.m. in the Leconfield Hall. These follow two talks on sixteenth and seventeenth century Petworth, one at the A.G.M. on Wednesday, 12th April, and the other on Wednesday, 10th May, both at the Leconfield Hall at 7.30 p.m. All these events are open to anyone who is interested. Members of the Petworth Society and their friends are also very cordially invited to join the Sussex Archaeological Society's outing to Petworth on Saturday, 6th May, and we append a note about the programme.

The Handwriting Group continues to work steadily through important documents illustrative of Petworth's long history. Three wills, the earliest going back to 1516, have given us a good deal to think about and we append a note on these. We have read some inventories from Graffham, a relatively unexplored field of study, Mr. Kenyon having worked so thoroughly on the Petworth ones. We have also read chancery depositions from the 1590's which look back some forty years to life in Petworth as it was under Edward VI and Mary, and other testimony in chancery concerning the alleged disappearance of the ancient book of copyholders' rights and customs. No evening would be complete without making the acquaintance of the imperious Duke of Somerset and Mr. Taylor his hard-pressed steward. His lordship's epistolary style jerks without warning from a purging of his favourite mare, to a crop failure of melons at Petworth, to a detailed schedule for the rebuilding of Petworth House, to finding a suitable tenant for Coultershaw Mill. Mr. and Mrs. Bragg two of our most skilled decipherers are in Australia until mid-April. We look forward to seeing them again!

P.A.J.

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD TRIP TO PETWORTH

All Members of the Petworth Society and their friends will be welcome on Saturday, 6th May.

Programme:

- 'Petworth - the town, park and water supply' -
Leader F.G. Aldsworth B.A.
- Commencing at 10.30 a.m. in the main car park on the south side of the town.
- 10.30 a.m. The origins of Petworth and the surviving remains of the Medieval East Field.
 - 11.30 a.m. The Buildings of Petworth: Mrs. M. Hallam (local historian).
 - 12.30 a.m. The formal gardens of Petworth House and the sixteenth-century water supply.
 - 1.30 p.m. Lunch - sandwiches and/or local pubs.
 - 3.00 p.m. Assemble at Coultershaw Mill, about two miles south of Petworth, to see the current restoration of the eighteenth century water pump: Mr. A.G. Allnutt (Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society).
 - 4.30 p.m. Disperse.

P.A.J.

DIARY DATES TO NOTE

- Wed. March 8th "Early Memories of Petworth" with tape recordings by Miss V. Maxse. Leconfield Hall 7.30 p.m.
- *Wed. April 5th Natural History Outing to Arundel Wildfowl Reserve. Meet Market Square 2 p.m.
- Wed. April 12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Leconfield Hall 7.30 p.m. An opportunity will be given for Members to discuss the role of the Society in connection with future developments in Petworth.
- *Wed. April 19th Natural History Outing to Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve. Meet Sidlesham Ferry Car Park 10 a.m. Bring lunch and stout footwear.
- Sat. May 6th Sussex Archaeological Field Units visit to Petworth. (See separate programme)
- Wed. May 10th "Petworth in the 17th Century" Leconfield Hall 7.30 p.m.
- Sat. & Sunday June 17th & 18th Exhibition by the Petworth Society and the Petworth Horticultural Society Leconfield Hall.
- Wed. June 28th West Sussex Archives Society's visit to Burton and Coultershaw Mills.
- *Please advise David Sneller if you intend to come and if transport is required.

VISITS TO GARDENS

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Sheridan hope to arrange visits to some of the small Petworth Gardens in the late Spring. Dates will be on our notice board in Lombard Street nearer the time.

FAIR DAY "COFFEE SHOP"

The hard work put into the Fair Day Coffee Shop by so many willing Members of the Society and by the children from Herbert Shiner School was much appreciated by all those who came to the Leconfield Hall and enjoyed the food.

The Petworth Fair itself was this year most disappointing - having nothing of interest for the teenagers and very little to attract

visitors to the Square for more than a few minutes. The Coffee Shop therefore "struggled", but managed to raise a small overall profit of £7 odd to add to the Society's funds. The success of this venture in the future will, however, depend very much on the interest shown in the Fair itself and we very much hope that the Fairground people will return in greater numbers this year and bring a really first-rate FAIR on 20th November.

GEORGE GRIFFIN GARLAND 1900-1978

The death occurred on the 8th February after a long and weakening illness of George Griffin Garland. This is not the place to recapitulate the excellent newspaper biographies in the West Sussex Gazette and the Midhurst and Petworth Observer, nor have we the facilities in this Bulletin to reproduce any of his photographs, but the recent exhibition "Petworth Fifty Years Ago" was a fitting tribute to his work. In an age when local history was not fashionable he had the insight to appreciate that he lived in time of change and the industry and resolve to set those changes on record. Perhaps he was fortunate in the times in which he lived for he was able in the period between the wars to capture with the camera the last flickerings of many now vanished rural crafts, and the old ways of farming so soon to be superseded by the machine. He was fortunate too in the intuitive sympathy he had with his subjects. It was Mr. Garland who took the priceless Kevis negatives into safe custody and who saved the only known manuscript of The Tales of Old Petworth. If he had done only this Petworth would have cause to be grateful to him. Yet in the 70,000 negatives lodged in Petworth House and now in the custody of the West Sussex Record Office he has left his own memorial. No one who would understand Petworth in this century will ever do so without a continuing awareness and acknowledgement of Mr. Garland and his work.

P.A.J.

OUTING TO PAGHAM HARBOUR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE 13TH NOVEMBER 1977

A party of ten from our Wildlife Section visited the Reserve on a bright, cold and windy day. We arrived about 10 o'clock at Sidlesham Ferry and were greeted by a stonechat in the car park. A look at the ferry pond gave us good views of snipe, teal and shoveler.

Our visit coincided with exceptionally high tides and so we used cars to go straight to Church Norton seeing a covey of red legged partridges in a field by the road side.

The tide was by then rising fast and pushing various waders towards us giving good views of curlew, ringed plover, grey plover, dunlin, turnstones and redshank. Oystercatchers stood roosting on Tern Island and were soon joined by thousands of other waders. On the sea several great crested grebes dived for fish and some of the party saw six bearded tits among the reeds.

The footpath through Greenlease Farm produced sightings of great spotted woodpecker, kestrel and a heron sheltering from the wind behind a hedge. The highlight was probably the two black redstarts feeding with dunnock in a small field occupied by shetland ponies.

We took lunch into the churchyard and found a sunny and sheltered spot against the church and afterwards drove back to the ferry for a short visit to the new information centre with its aerial photographs of the area and lists of recent sightings.

We then walked along the harbour bank with the tide just turned for a further look at the waders who as the water level dropped found the first footholds to resume feeding. Among the gorse bushes flocks of linnets, greenfinches, goldfinches, reed buntings and yellow hammers were active and meadow pipits busily hunted the foreshore.

As the weather recently had been unusually mild the brent geese had not arrived here yet but we hope to arrange another outing for the New Year. A total of fifty-two species were noted on a most enjoyable day.

SOUTH SEAS CRUISE

After the very successful Twelfth Night Party held in January at which Members were entertained by an excellent group "HUMBLE", the chief event of the evening was THE FOOD.

We have received from Mrs. Janet Davidson, who organised the party with her Committee, a series of notes connected with the excellent dishes which were consumed.

Amongst a number of items the following may be of interest:-

15 lbs. of chicken curry; 15 lbs. of roast chicken; 5 lbs. of ham; 8 lbs. of barbecued pork; 10 lbs. of rice; 5 fresh cream gateaux and 3 fresh pineapples. Space does not permit us to detail a list

offruit, sauces, peppers and sauces which were also provided. An interesting fact emerged that the weight of food consumed came to over 1 lb. per head!

It may be possible to print menus covering the more exotic dishes in a later issue of the "Bulletin".

Mrs. Davidson is particularly anxious to thank the many members of her Committee who worked most enthusiastically. These included Mesdames HAND, MOORE, FYNES, OAKES, RIX, ROBSON, FOLEY, SYNGE, HUNTER, and MR. DOUGLAS MOORE. In addition Mrs. Margaret HILL organised a group of "FLOWER MANUFACTURERS" and produced the magnificent paper flowers which decorated the tables, and Joan BOSS and Barbara JOHNSON PRODUCED exotic rice dishes; MR. DOUGLAS rendered yeoman service in decorating the Hall.

Our thanks are also due to those who helped to run the party and erected and dismantled the lavish decorations:- Peter and Michael FOLEY for organising the music on records; Joan BOSS and BOB WALBER happily playing the piano; JOHN DAVIDSON for leading the singing - AND the dancing!!

Most of all we would say "thank you" to all those Members and guests who came in such numbers and really wanted to enjoy themselves.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members have joined the Society since the publication of the last list in November, 1977:-

- Miss M. Bagot, Fairlawn, West Chiltington.
- Mr. Charles Deane, Byworth Ridge, Petworth.
- Dr. Robert Deane, Byworth Ridge, Petworth.
- Mr. and Mrs. R. Emerson, Blue Ridge, Sheepdown Close, Petworth.
- Lt. Col. and Mrs. H. Flower, Cherry Tree Cottage, Amberley.
- Mrs. D. Fowler, The Manse, High Street, Petworth.
- Mr. and Mrs. S. Harding, Stringer's Hall, East Street, Petworth.
- Mrs. D.M. Hersey, Myrtle Cottage, East Street, Petworth.
- Mrs. S. Hunter, Trumpers Cottage, Petworth.
- Mr. and Mrs. A. Mason, 509 Barlavington Lane, Sutton.
- Dr. and Mrs. Pepper, The Strawberry Tree, Fittleworth.
- Captain and Mrs. Potheary, Redwings, Kirdford.
- Mr. Redgrave, Tillington Old Rectory.
- Mr. and Mrs. D. Tamblin, Maple House, Norwood Lane, Graffham.

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

- Mr. M. Vigne, Maltings, Angel Street, Petworth.
- Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes, 51 Sheepdown Drive, Petworth.
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilmshurst, Market Square, Petworth.
- Mr. and Mrs. R. Wood, The Coach House, Barton's Lane, Petworth.

A new-style crossword devised by some pupils of the Herbert Shiner School for young - and not so young - readers. The last letter of each answer is also the first letter of the next.

1	P	E	T	W	O	R	T	H	O	U	S	E	G	R	E	M	O	N	T	A	V	E	R	N	E	W	
0	Clues:																						Y				
U	Across											Down											N				
M	1. A West Sussex town.											1. An expensive street.											D				
9	2. The focal point of 1 across.											6. The family name.											H				
3	3. One earldom.											7. Solicitor/Chairman remembered in a road.											A				
A	4. The baker's inn.											8. Petworth is this, whatever people say.											7				
M	5. The latest street.											9. A bridge over dry land.											M				
E	11. For cars or deer?											10. Even if you don't live in Petworth, you may come to do this.											A				
R	12. Petworth Dogs' Home.																						N				
10	13. Bombed in 1942.																						8				
S	14. A cobbled street.																						T				
H	15. An antique shop in East Street.																						O				
0																							W				
11	P	A	R	K	E	N	N	E	L	S	C	H	O	L	O	M	B	A	R	D	E	N	M	A	N	E	W

PETWORTH CHURCH BEFORE THE REFORMATION

Three Interesting Wills

Wills are not always the most informative or even the most interesting of documents, but the age and content of the three early sixteenth century wills to be considered here make them an exception. Even the latest anticipates the Parish Register by a good twenty years and many of the religious practices alluded to were to be swept away for ever by the Reformation. The documents, all from the reign of Henry VIII, are contemporary copies of the originals, sometimes carelessly copied with surprising omissions. The handwriting is an early form of the secretary hand to which we have become accustomed in the chancery documents of the 1590's.

Writing in 1516 Henry, or Hary, Barclay desires to be buried in the parish church and leaves bequests to the mother church of Chichester, to the parish church of Petworth, "to the chapell of Saint Jhon callyd northe chapell" and to the church of "Ffytyllworth". Alms were to be given at his burial "unto pore men and women to pray for my soull and crysten soulls" and he makes a similar bequest for his month's day. Ten priests were to be paid five shillings at his burial and at his month's day. John Naldrede (Naldrett) his executor was to pay a priest "xviii marks off good and lawfull money of England to say masse and to pray for my soull and all crysten by the space of ii yeres in the church of petworth". Further "the house thatt Rychard Gobull (i.e. Goble an old Petworth name) dwell-yth in shall go to the church and churchwardens of Petworth". For this the churchwardens were to cause "an obitt to be kept for my soull". An obitt was a commemoration service on the anniversary of a person's death. The obitt was to be said yearly (presumably out of the income accruing from Gobull's house) and the residue of the rent was to go to church reparations.

The most interesting of the three wills is that of Anthony Johnson of Petworth dated 11th May 1526. He desires to be buried in St. Thomas chancel and after a bequest to the mother church (i.e. of Chichester) he makes a bequest "to the hy altar of Petworth" and toward the reparations of the church. He leaves 20 shillings for his lying in the church, and to the brotherhood of Corpus Christi a cow or 6/8d. Such brotherhoods had as their function to pray and say mass for the souls of the departed.

Another 6/8d. goes toward the reparations of the bells. His

executors were to purchase "a canaby of satten to bere over the sacrament in processions", and 13/4d. was to be set aside to allow "the maintenaunce of a tapere by fore the holy rode of Petworth", to be renewed when it had become exhausted. A silver spoon was left to each of his goddaughters and to Anthony Dawtreay, his godson, 40 shillings. There follow some other personal bequests including some of malt. Another 6/8d. is set aside "to the mayntaynace of the channell of the cundyte" a very early reference to what must be Parson Edmond's famous water supply. His executors were to cause a trentall of masses to be sung at his burial and at a month's end. A trental, usually now spelled with a single l, was a set of thirty requiem masses, sung either on the same or on different days. At the same time his wife was to distribute 20 shillings to the poor.

Thomas Welbe's will dating from May 13th 1539 is in contrast rather homespun. He too desires to be buried in the church and makes his contribution toward reparations. Personal bequests to his sons and daughters include "a bullocke" "an ew" a horse colt, a "tege" and a "lame". A teg is a yearling sheep. To Julian his wife he bequeaths "Brynkesell" (i.e. (?) Brinksole) "untill my son Robert be of the age of xx yere and she to fyne it unto the lorde for the chylde and to kepe it tennant able". We would hope to say something of the custom of copyhold here alluded to in another Bulletin.

The handwriting group are grateful to Mrs. Alison McCann of the West Sussex Record Office for drawing our attention to these documents, and for helping us with the interpretation of them.

P.A.J.

CERAMIC CIRCLE

A very successful meeting was held at Denne Court, kindly arranged by Mrs. Sandell. We heard a most interesting recorded talk by Mr. Geoffrey Godden on Mason's Iron Stone Ware. The next meeting will be at 7.30 on Wednesday, 1st March at Denne Court, East Street. The subject will be Worcester Porcelain, well illustrated with slides.

The last meeting until the Autumn will be on May 3rd. Mr. Ivor Robertshaw will be talking about early Cream Ware.

C.M.S.

ANSWERS

All/2 No further information has appeared about the school at Petworth attended by William Bullaker in the later years of the reign of Henry VIII. Mrs. McCann of the West Sussex Record Office has however compiled a list of Petworth schoolmasters, some approved and some not from roughly this period.

All/4 A shim is a kind of horse-hoe or shallow plough, or it can mean a piece of iron attached to a farm implement to make a tool that would till the surface of the soil. Shimmings might then mean something like 'the place where the farm implements are stored.' In fact the name appears already on John Norden's 1606 map of the manor of Byworth when it was in the occupation of one Nicolas Tomson. A more romantic suggestion is that shim is a dialect word for a 'glimpse' and might refer to Shimmings often being carpeted in mist! I am much indebted to Mrs. M.E. Knight for help with this answer.

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, Stone House, Petworth.
Chairman - Mr. H.C. Oakes, Woodpeckers, Sheepdown Close.
Vice-Chairman - Mr. P.A. Jerrome, Trowels, Pound Street, Petworth.
Hon. Secretary - Mrs. B.G. Johnson, Glebe Cottage, Bartons Lane, Petworth. (Tel. 42226)
Hon. Asst. Sec. - Mr. G.P.D. Adams, Byworth Rough, Petworth.
Hon. Treasurer - Mr. R.A. Sneller, Upaven, Golden Square, 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, Mr. D.S. Sneller, Mr. P.M. Synge, Mr. K.C.