



- 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.F. Geeves, Kitts, Middle Street, Petworth.
Committee - Mrs. J. Boss, Mr. J.W. Davidson, Lord Egremont,
Mr. P.A. Jerrome, Mr. 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

"Change and decay in all around I see" - so run the familiar words of the hymn. In Petworth, happily, they would seem to be only half true, whatever one may think of the rest of the world today. The wind of change is certainly blowing through the town in various ways - in new ownership or alteration of many of its older buildings and in plans for the construction of new ones.

So far these changes have in most cases been for the better. Of "decay" the outward signs are already less evident, even in North Street, and plans are in hand for further improvement.

At the time of writing an unusual number of important listed buildings and sites of special interest are vacant or awaiting new owners or decisions from authorities concerned. Some of these are mentioned in the note on planning applications on a later page.

THE BYPASS

This controversial subject has once more come to the fore. Meetings for discussion are being arranged through the Parish Council. The Petworth Society, among other local organizations, has been invited to send representatives.

The County Council propose to reach a decision in November. Meanwhile so many technical, financial and environmental factors, and

so many conflicting interests, are involved that we must wait and see what alternative proposals emerge. Members attending the meetings on behalf of the Society will not be prevented from expressing opinions as individuals, but if necessary a General Meeting can be called later.

What matters to Petworth is that the traffic - particularly the heavy lorry traffic - which is now damaging not only the amenities but the actual buildings in our town, should be reduced as soon as possible with the minimum of damage to the environment.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members whose subscriptions for the year ending March 15, 1976 have not yet been paid are reminded that they should reach the Honorary Treasurer without delay. If convenient to save postage they may be left in a sealed envelope addressed to Mr. Geeves at the office of Messrs. Anderson, Longmore and Higham in Market Square. The amount, 50p minimum (or 25p for a junior member under 18) remains the same for the current year. Anyone wishing to join can obtain an application form and copy of the rules from any member of the Committee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The first Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 22nd April, 1975, at the Leconfield Hall, Petworth. The meeting was attended by about 80 members. Lord Egremont was unanimously elected to the Committee. The Credit Balance as at 15th March, 1975, was £149.26.

After the meeting Mr. Arthur Hill presented a "photo play" entitled "George O'Brien, 3rd Earl of Egremont".

CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 19

The Society's Christmas Party, which will be held in the Leconfield Hall from 7.30 to 11 o'clock on the night of Friday, December 19, will be on much the same lines as that in 1974. Admission will be free to all members of the Society. Coffee and refreshments will be served, and wine and beer sold by the glass. There will be carol-singing and the Petworth Edwardians will present a short new programme.

Gifts to serve as prizes for the Raffle and Tombola (especially anything in the shape of a bottle, from champagne to sauce) will be gratefully received by:- Lady Fry at Gorehill (Telephone 42450), Mrs. Janet Davidson at North House (42145) and Mrs. Deirdre Davidson at Lancaster House (42674).

BUST OF WILLIAM III ON THE LECONFIELD HALL

The condition of this unusual bust by Honoré Pelle has recently been causing considerable concern. The bust is one of the few examples of this artist's work in England and was described in the guide to Sussex by Ian Nairn and Nikolaus Pevsner as "one of the best pieces of Baroque sculpture in England". Part of the nose is broken and there has been much fouling by pigeons and growth of green algae and even some grass over it. Its attachment to the pediment has also been described as dangerous and so the trustees of the hall have decided that it should be taken down with the greatest possible care and stored under cover until suitable renovation can be made.

A report has been received from the chief sculpture restorer at the Victoria and Albert Museum, who estimated the expenses of a full restoration at a considerable sum. An inspection has also recently been made by Mr. F.H. Ayres, of West Burton, a noted sculpture restorer, who has reinforced strongly the view that the bust should be taken down and some cleaning and restoration made.

Since the Leconfield Hall is a scheduled building permission is being sought from the County Surveyor for the bust to be taken down. When a decision has been made over the amount of reparation to be done and whether the bust should be then restored to its former position, where the same state may arise again, or whether it should find a new place under cover, we hope to be able to make a further announcement later.

PETWORTH FAIR, NOVEMBER 20

Petworth's Annual Fair will take place on Thursday, November 20. To promote interest in it and at the same time raise funds for the Society, Lady Fry's group of helpers are planning to run a Coffee Shop in the Leconfield Hall from 6 to 9 o'clock that evening. Hot drinks will be sold, a raffle and children's guessing-games will be held, and stalls offering home-made cakes, honey and jams and "White Elephant" bric-a-brac will be arranged. Admission will be free.

NEW ROADS IN PETWORTH

Now that the development of the site west of Station Road, Petworth, is almost completed and most of the roads are at last labelled, it may be useful to include a list of their names, and those of the main blocks of flats.

Main roads encircling the site and leading out of Station Road are:- Rothermead, Meadow Way and Martlet Road.

Roads and Walks leading out of the above are:- Northway, Willow Walk, Cherry Tree Walk (not to be confused with Cherry Orchard and Cherry Row in the older part of the Town), Woodpecker Road, Park Rise, and Pound Close (not to be confused with Pound Place on the other side of Pound Street).

Blocks of flats are:- Cedar Court, Mulberry Court, Linden Court and Oakwood Court.

GROUP REPORTS

Conservation - Architecture and Planning

Leader: Mr. John W. Davidson, A.R.I.B.A., D.A.(Edin.),
North House, Petworth. (Tel. 42145)

The major development proposed in recent months has been the extension at the Sheepdowns, and representations have been made by a number of residents. Although no formal comment has been made by the Society to the District Council, discussions with the Planning Office revealed that the application, originally approved in outline, would now be subject to architectural control only so far as materials were concerned. Drawings available for viewing at Newlands indicated that this control had indeed been exercised and it was evident that the buildings would have a more traditional character than originally proposed. The group shares the view of the Countryside Group that suitable tree screening would be of some value in ensuring that the view of Petworth as seen from the Pulborough Road approach would be less of an eyesore.

A proposal for Denman's Antique Shop in Norman Place, East Street, has been examined. This involved forming a restaurant at ground level with living accommodation over, and there would appear to be no objection possible, as the external features of the building are being maintained.

Alternative planning arrangements have been put forward for the development of the vacant site opposite Harwood's Garage (behind the Westminster Bank). As these are only outline at this stage there will be an opportunity to make further comment on this issue. The alternative proposals as seen at the Council Office were for (a) four three-storey houses in terrace formation with garages at ground level or (b) two-storey development for two shops with offices and living accommodation over. The question of access for cars to scheme (a) may be a distinct problem in view of the present Bus Stop, and whereas the architectural qualities of both schemes are possibly quite acceptable, the proposal suffers from its site limitations, and in terms of town-planning can be little more than an infill.

If it would be possible to create an access to this site from the north side of the square (for pedestrians only) a small shopping adjunct in the tradition of the old town could be achieved. Instead of being out on a limb, this small development could be related to the framework of the town and benefit from it. This idea has been discussed informally with the County Planning Office. The problem is that access from the square is barred by a small garden outside the ownership of the present applicant.

J. W. Davidson.

Planning Applications

Plans which have been examined at Newlands on behalf of the Society, besides those mentioned in Mr. Davidson's report above, concern the following (with approximate dates in brackets):-

In East Street:-

The Old Girls' School (1819, built as a chapel).

Conversion to a private house and restoration of the front, with its iron railings, to its original appearance, should be a great improvement.

The Hermitage (18th cent.) has again come up for sale. Outline permission has been given for a bungalow in a walled part of the site.

In North Street and Church Street, various restorations or conversions are either complete or in progress, including George House (18th cent.) where the conversion of the coach house

awaits completion, and the Four and Twenty Blackbirds, formerly Pettifers (17th cent.).

Detailed plans for the new Rectory have not yet appeared and until they are approved the future of the old Rectory (1630) is likely to remain uncertain for a time. Meanwhile part of it will be occupied by the newly appointed Rector, the Reverend John H. Greene.

Plans approved for Thompson's Hospital (1624) provide for the 14 "bed-sitters" to be converted into seven two-roomed flats, with a flat for wardens.

Somerset Lodge (1653) came up for sale last month. As mentioned in our last bulletin it was rescued from dereliction and restored some years ago thanks to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. It is one of few houses of similar importance built during the Civil War.

In Pound Street conversion of Culvercroft (19th cent.) into two dwellings and restoration of 2 Pound Place (16th cent.) are nearly completed.

The plans for the Football Field in Grove Street between New Grove and Lund House, originally rejected by the District Council, may, we hope be reconsidered. This site is part of the town's "Green Belt" and was saved from development for housing when that was proposed a decade ago.

EAHY Photographic Survey

A meeting of members interested in photography was held at North House on July 26 to plan the work of recording the buildings of Petworth as part of the survey organised by the West Sussex County Record Office. This is to include all the towns and villages in the County as they are during European Architectural Heritage Year, 1975.

Ten films have been bought initially by the Society to provide 360 record photographs.

Areas were allotted as follows:-

Petworth Centre - Mr. Martin Miller.

East Street and Angel Street (N. side) - Mrs. Alan Higgitt.

Byworth, Sheepdowns and Angel Street (S. side) -
Mr. P.M. Synge and Mr. J.S. Deane.

North Street and Hampers Green - Mr. J.W. Davidson.

It is proposed that two prints of each photograph should be taken, so that one may be held in Petworth by the Society, and put on exhibition when the work is completed.

Countryside and Amenities

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

Garden visits were made during June to several gardens in the district and were thoroughly enjoyed by members attending. There averaged about twelve for each visit. Our hosts kindly accompanied the parties round their gardens and answered questions about the plants. The times were chosen when the shrub roses would be at their best and many of these were particularly beautiful. Miss Courtauld kindly showed members the lower room of her lovely Elizabethan house and this was much appreciated. We visited -

Sutton End (Mrs. Holland) June 17th

Beechwood, Duncton (Mrs. Herbert Agar) June 19th

Cooke's House, West Burton (Miss J.B. Courtauld) June 22nd

West Burton House (A.C. Benedict Eyre Esq.) June 22nd

Pitshill (Sir Colville and Lady Barclay) June 29th

It is hoped to arrange for another series of garden visits next year.

Rothermead Estate

Unfortunately the long and hot dry spell has caused some casualties among the newly planted shrubs and the remainder have made little growth. Newly planted shrubs do require some attention in keeping long grass and weeds clear round them and some watering in dry periods during the first two years and this they do not appear to have received. However it is hoped that those surviving

will grow away better after it rains and that in the autumn the District Council will be able to make some further plantings and also replace the shrubs which have died.

Washington Copse

The Action Group led by Mr. David Sneller spent an energetic day clearing much of the rubbish from Washington Copse, including old car chassis, bedsteads, refrigerators, wireless sets, much of it quite heavy. This was carried to the top and piled whence it was removed by a lorry of the Leconfield Estate. We are grateful for their co-operation in the matter. Subsequently some hardcore has been tipped over the rubbish remaining and it is hoped that this will become quickly grown over. The Estate has kindly promised to put up some "No Dumping" notices and to discourage dumping of rubbish in this beautiful bit of woodland. More members are still required for this group.

A further meeting of members of the Countryside and Amenity Group will be held in the early autumn to discuss our future programme.

Patrick M. Synge.

THE FALLOW DEER IN PETWORTH PARK

The herd of Fallow deer in Petworth Park is probably the most outstanding in the country and is of particular interest. It is proposed on Saturday, October 18, to hold a meeting at 2.30 p.m. in the Audit Room of Petworth House when Mr. Gerald Springthorpe, a Forestry Commission Head Ranger, will give a short illustrated account of Fallow deer and other forest wild life, and describe the significance of the "rutting" in the deer's life. Mr. Springthorpe is one of the greatest experts on these deer in the country and we will be much privileged to be able to hear a talk from him. After the talk members will have a short tour in the park when it is hoped to see the "rutting". This tour will be conducted by Mr. Aplin, the Head Keeper, who looks after the herd. We are grateful to Sir Charles Wolseley, Bt., for making the arrangements for this afternoon on our behalf.

Tickets price 50p for a member (non-member 75p) will be available from Mr. David Sneller, The Square, Petworth, or Mr. Patrick Synge, Byworth Edge.

Local History and Records

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

The Exhibition on "Petworth Inns, Past and Present" in the public library in April and May appears to have been of interest. Once again Mr. J.M. Newdick gave us a great deal of help with the mounting of it, and we are very grateful to him.

A General Meeting of the whole Group was held at the Leconfield Hall on June 17th. Despite the appalling weather that evening it was well attended. We mounted an impromptu exhibition of some of the material relating to Petworth that we now have, paying especial attention to that acquired over the past year. It was agreed that the next exhibition would be on "Petworth at the Turn of the Century". Our ability to mount worthwhile exhibitions has been immeasurably strengthened by the acquisition by the Society of a set of three connecting double Mailer-Haley screens. These have limestone-coloured hessian on both sides and can display a great deal of material.

The "Secretary" Hand

An important result of the meeting on June 17 was the formation of a study group to read the so-called "secretary" handwriting used for documents in the period from 1550 to 1700. We were delighted to take up Mrs. Hallam's kind suggestion that she should initiate us in this script. In fact this has opened up a large selection of documents hitherto unavailable to us, and we are very grateful to Mrs. Hallam for coming from Heyshott on a number of summer evenings to guide us. We operate with photo-copies and at our regular Tuesday evening meetings at Trowels we have read inventories, wills, accounts, parts of manorial surveys and depositions. Of particular interest is a file of material from the Petworth House Archives concerned with poaching within the Park in 1623. We hope perhaps to write a summary of what we have learned of the poaching case for a later bulletin.

If anyone would like to join the class, please let me know. We can probably take two or three more. The "secretary" hand, while it varies to some extent with the idiosyncrasy of the scribe, is difficult at first, but becomes reasonably straightforward after an hour or two's practice, so there is no need for anyone to feel it is too late to join the Group.

Members may note references in the Questions and Answers to the "Tales of Old Petworth". The republication of this document becomes increasingly important and the time is coming when we shall have to see what we can do about it.

We are grateful to Miss Steggles (among others) for the gift to the Society of a map of the Parish in 1830, some very old photographs of the houses in Church Street, now demolished, and a number of documents. Also to Mr. E. Lane, for documents concerned with the building business of Mr. Pulling found at Pound Place.

The next full meeting of the Group will be in the Leconfield Hall on Tuesday, September 23rd at 7.15 p.m. We can then finalise arrangements for the coming exhibition on "Petworth at the Turn of the Century". As usual we have a large number of photographs, but objects and mementoes will be helpful for balance. The new screens will be on view to members at the meeting.

P. A. Jerrome

LECTURE ON TURNER

This was given by Mr. Michael Kitson, Reader in the History of Art at the Courtauld Institute. Lord Egremont kindly took the Chair and introduced the speaker. The lecture was held in the Carved Room of Petworth House by kind permission of Lord Egremont and the National Trust and afterwards members were able to visit Turner's Studio, which had been specially cleared for members to see. The lecturer gave a brilliant and entertaining account of Turner and his life at Petworth and was able to bring the period vividly before us while showing a fine series of slides revealing new beauties in the paintings.

After a glass of wine in the Marble Hall members were able to see the pictures which had been returned from the London exhibition. The portrait of Jessica had been cleaned and shone with a new refulgence. Col. Maude gave a vote of thanks to the lecturer and to Lord Egremont, who had done much to make the occasion possible. It was indeed a unique evening devoted to one of our greatest artists who had been so intimately connected with Petworth and members much enjoyed it. It was a special privilege to be able to see the Studio, a fine room in a part of the house not usually open to the public.

EMIGRATION TO CANADA, 1832

A further fifty copies of the thesis by Mr. Lloyd Richardson, of Bishop Otter College Chichester, mentioned in Bulletin No.3, have been presented to the Society by Dr. J. Fines. Members, who have not already received one, may obtain a copy on application at the Petworth Library or to Colonel Maude at Stone House, High Street. (Tel. 42314).

The essay tells in detail, with map, the story of the emigration committee sponsored by the Earl of Egremont which during the five years 1832-37 settled 1818 persons from this district in Upper Canada, mostly in Ontario. Many of their descendants still live in that province.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

Plans are being made to form an 'Age Concern' Association, for Petworth District, as a development from the former Petworth old people's welfare committee. A Steering group has been set up and, at their first meeting on July 9th, decided to invite all relevant organisations within the former Petworth Rural District to appoint representatives to the new association. It is hoped that all the excellent work being carried out in the district on behalf of the elderly can be effectively co-ordinated through the local Age Concern group when it is launched later this year. It is hoped to start a more viable visiting scheme and to improve communications so that the elderly are aware of the benefits to which they are entitled. The Petworth Society has nominated its Honorary Secretary, Mr. Adams, to represent it.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined the Society since the last list was published in our April Bulletin (No.4):-

Mr. P.T.K. and Mrs. M.E. Anderson, Shurlands, Wisborough Green, Billingshurst.

Miss G. Clarke, Sheeling Cottage, North Street, Petworth.

Mr. T.R.W. and Mrs. N.C. Longmore, Gofts Hill, Byworth.

Miss E.E. Wade, Old School House, Sutton, Pulborough.

GIFTS

In addition to items mentioned in previous bulletins and group reports we acknowledge with thanks the following items given or promised to the Society:-

Mrs. W. Slade Mitford - Notice Board with list "taken by Farmers of Post Horse Duty" in 1811, showing exact distances from Petworth and from Pitshill to main centres in the County.

Mr. Henry Whitcomb - Brass padlock of the stocks formerly in Market Square.

Mr. Baigent, Hampers Green - Photo of Petworth Fire Brigade, 1934.

Mr. Arthur Sherwin - Flint tool heads or flakes found locally.

Mr. Morrish - Samples of Petworth Marble, unworked.

Similar items of local interest will be gratefully received by any member of the Committee for the collection which it is hoped will be eventually put on permanent display in the town. Meanwhile they are valuable for showing in temporary exhibitions.

It will add greatly to the value of old photographs or other records presented to the Society, or lent for exhibition, if the date, even an approximate one, can be noted on the back. In group photos it will add still more to their value if the names of those who are identifiable can be stated.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q5/1 A question from Miss Gwenda Morgan relates to "a white-ish stone built into the Park wall almost opposite Tillington House (before you reach the bend in the road)". She writes:- "Cut into the stone one can read: 'William Mills, 1778'. The stone is very cracked. In my young days I remember it being in very good condition, and I used to wonder who was this William Mills? Did he meet with a violent death near that spot? Or was he the man who built the wall?"

Q5/2 The 1830 Parish map, which is remarkably bald of information, shows clearly the "Beelzebub oak" north of the lower lake in the Park and land on the Northchapel Road. It was obviously a well-

known landmark. The map notes also within the Park 'site of Northumberland's oak' and 'site of lime-kiln'. Is there any other information about these landmarks?

Q5/3 A tax document of 1841 gives Gosden's Yard as the name for the present Pound Place. This name is still remembered by older inhabitants. But who was Gosden?

Q5/4 Why Lombard Street? The seventeenth century name was the Causey. Various legends are current, connecting it with London bankers, etc. Does anyone know the facts?

Q5/5 Is there any significance for Petworth in the falcon? The old White Hart Inn in the Square had a 'falcon' room in 1670, and the heraldic Tudor mural discovered by Mr. Boss in North Street appears to portray a falcon.

Q5/6 Arnold refers to a number of well-known Inns as occurring in an assessment from the time of Queen Anne. But where were (a) The Coach (b) The Brick and Mould? Was the latter another name for the Trowel - not mentioned in the list?

Q5/7 The poaching documents of 1623 make frequent mention of the servants of "my Lady Gerrard", obviously a person of some local standing. Do we have any other information about her?

Q5/8 The anonymous writer of "Tales of Old Petworth" mentions his journey as a boy down Trump Alley, past the Star and through the Swan Yard to Berry's School. The School is mentioned in Pigot's directory for 1826. A receipt from Pound Place is for 12/- paid by Mr. Pulling to a Mr. Woodcock for two week's schooling for his son in July 1841. What else do we know about the numerous private academies in nineteenth-century Petworth?

Q5/9 Is there any trace left at Shimmings of the famed tannery of old witcher? The "Tales of Old Petworth" report that "the meadow of Shimmings is still deeply indented by places where the tan-pits were". But that, of course, was at least eighty years ago.

A.4/3 The "Hangman's Cottage", as several members have informed us, was another name for Soanes, the stone house in Grove Lane formerly known also as "Wicked Hamman's" for reasons given in Bulletin 2. Probably the reason for its acquiring

its second unpleasant nickname was a confusion, perhaps deliberate, with the name of the Hammans family.

MORE BOOKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Higham, Roger. "The South Country", 8vo pp.149. Illustrated.
Dent and Sons, London. 1972.

Jefferies, Richard. "Wild Life in a Southern County"
Thomas Nelson and Sons. pp.384.

Teviot, Lord. Walks Along the South Downs Way 6Op.
Spurbooks Ltd., Bourne End, Bucks.

A detailed pocket guide, with maps, to walks in Sussex, including many in the areas between Steyning, Storrington, Bury, Bignor, Graffham, Cocking and Harting.

Belloc, Hilaire. The Four Men : A Farrage
Thomas Nelson and Sons (out of print)

Any lover of Sussex who is not already familiar with this little book and who is fortunate enough to obtain or borrow a copy will find much to delight him. Most of it was written in the Parish of Petworth in the house at Burton Corner where Belloc was the guest of Mrs. Wright Biddulph, to whom he dedicated it.

It tells the story of the journey on foot along the Downs from East to West of four oddly assorted and anonymous strangers at All Souls' tide in 1902.

The summing up of Mr. Justice Honeybubble in the famous dispute at the Cricketers' Arms at Duncton is a joy to read, as are Belloc's whimsical accounts of Sussex legends and their origin.

In the final chapter Belloc, whose devotion to Sussex was almost an obsession, tells how he "looked north from the

ridge of the steep escarpment over the plain to the rivers and the roofs of the Weald:

"I would have blessed them had I known some form of word or spell which might convey an active benediction, but as I knew none such, I repeated instead the list of their names to serve in place of a prayer.

"The river Arun, a valley of sacred water; and Amberley wild brook, which is lonely with reeds of evening; and Burton Great House, where I had spent nights in November; and Lavington also and Hidden Byworth; and Fittleworth next on, and Egdean Side, all heath and air; and the lake and the pine trees at the mill; and Petworth, little town."

A.H.M.

SUSSEX SAYINGS

High hedges make good neighbours.

The rosemary will never bloom except where the missus' is master.

Sussex folk wun't be druv.

Petworth, one of the eighteen "Market Towns in Sussex" listed in "The Present State of Great Britain and Ireland, 1731", held its market day on Wednesdays.

The Beast Market was then held in what is now Golden Square.

right of the way, and went over the plain to the river
and the roofs of the houses:

"I would have liked to have had I had some more of this
or well which had been an other foundation, but as
I have some work, I repeat I finished the first of this
house to have in place of a house."

"The river runs, a valley of stored water; and the
wild world, which is made of stones; and
the river runs, where I had spent a day in the
and is the first of the river; and the river runs
and the river runs, the river runs, and the river runs
the river runs of the river; and the river runs."

A.B.C.

THE RIVER

The river runs, the river runs, the river runs.

The river runs, the river runs, the river runs.
The river runs, the river runs, the river runs.

The river runs, the river runs, the river runs.

The river runs, the river runs, the river runs.
The river runs, the river runs, the river runs.
The river runs, the river runs, the river runs.

The river runs, the river runs, the river runs.