

No. 192. September 2023

THE PETWORTH SOCIETY  
*magazine*

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Decorations in Petworth to celebrate the coronation of the new King in May were many but it was generally agreed that these floral crowns outside Twenty boutique in East Street should take first prize had prizes been offered. There were six of them and all made by Twenty's Donna Ford using gypsophila, eucalyptus, thistles, cotton plant, pussy willow and statice all woven around a broomstick. Donna was flattered to hear a passer-by remark that 'They must have got someone down from London to do them.' She didn't say a word.

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**FRONT AND BACK COVERS**

Glatting Farm from the west under a glowering sky in late June this year. See 'A thousand years of farming at Glatting' on page 10.

# THE PETWORTH SOCIETY

## CONSTITUTION AND OFFICERS

The Petworth Society was founded in 1974 'to preserve the character and amenities of the town and parish of Petworth including Byworth and the parish of Egdean; 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, anywhere and the annual subscription is £20.00 for UK addresses and £30.00 for overseas addresses. Further information may be obtained from any of the following.

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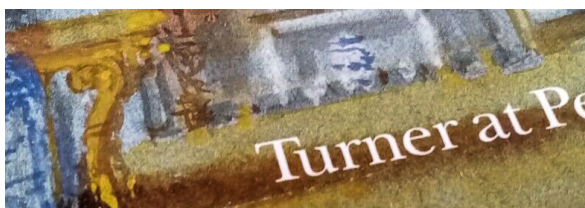
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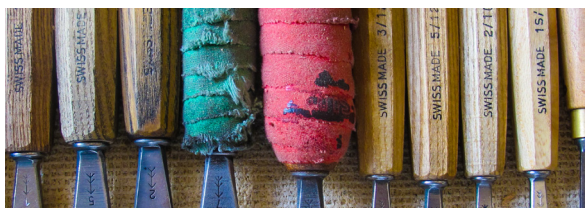
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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Alexandra Soskin

There has been a flurry of summertime activity in Petworth – including, not least, our own Society Summer party – reminding us just what an active town this is for its size, and that it is rich with traditions. We are particularly lucky to have Petworth Park. Outside the New Lodges one afternoon, I met a lady who had arrived by car with her family and two dogs. Mentioning being at the Fête in the Park the day before, she commented on how lovely the park is and asked if people were allowed in to walk. I was happy of course to be able to reply ‘Yes’.

It is a wonderful setting for events, but is also so much appreciated as a place to walk, picnic, let dogs romp, or simply enjoy the beautiful trees and vistas. Capability Brown must be smiling in his grave. Those who have joined one of the now regular Society walks will also be especially aware (thanks to Gerald Gresham-Cooke and Henry Wakeford respectively) of the ancient trees, some of them many hundreds of years old, and of the history of the land as revealed by archaeological treasures found there. No wonder there is such a special atmosphere in the park.

At the AGM, I announced my intention to stand down as Chairman this year and invited candidates to be my successor to come forward. Due process being observed, I am now very happy to say that Mike Mulcahy will be taking over as Chairman from 1 August 2023. He will also become a new Trustee.

Mike is an existing committee member and is known to many members already. Professor Mulcahy – to give him his full title – has a background in dentistry and is still active at a supervisory level in his profession. He has lived in or around Petworth since the 1970s and members living in Petworth will no doubt be accustomed to seeing him ‘about town’.

I will leave Mike to introduce himself more fully, and the next Chairman’s Notes will come from his pen. For now, I would like to welcome him to the position – only the third in the Society’s history. For my part, it has been a great pleasure and honour to serve as Chairman of the Society. It was quite a formidable mantle to take on from Peter Jerrome and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to make a contribution towards keeping the Society that he did so much for, alive and kicking. I am also grateful to all the management committee members I have been lucky enough to serve with. They have all been fantastic, ‘make-it-happen’ people who ... well ... make it happen! I look forward to remaining a Trustee.

## EDITORIAL

Andrew Loukes

*PSM*192 begins and ends with walks in Petworth Park, an extraordinary landscape which – as emphasised in the Chairman’s Notes – we are so fortunate to have freely accessible on our doorstep. The Chairman’s own account of Henry Wakeford’s archaeological walk reminds us of the great historical significance of the park and the physical evidence both above and below ground which demonstrates this. One of the most fascinating former parkland landscapes covered by Henry is illustrated and explored further by this issue’s Picture Note.

Occasionally this magazine serves as the ideal platform for publishing telling historical data, and this issue contains two such examples. The first is a compelling seventeenth-century inventory of Glatting Farm (including forty cheeses) expertly contextualised by the late historian Annabelle Hughes. The other is Andrew Howard’s welcome idea to share the fascinating details for the Petworth Gaol contained within the 1851 Census, made all the more interesting for his helpful introduction and observations.

As a volunteer at Coultershaw and a member of its Research Group, Hazel Flack has skilfully collated information from their recent exhibition and other sources to evoke the unfolding events of the devastating fire of a hundred years ago which destroyed the mill, despite the efforts of three local fire brigades and the assistance of all-comers. Another volunteer, the National Trust’s Janet Austin at Petworth House, shares her insightful experience of change for both Room Stewards and visitors over the last twenty years, and particularly reflects on the great ‘Turner at Petworth’ exhibition of 2002. A memorable dimension to that project was its inclusion of parallel shows of contemporary art, which also features in this issue through the internationally acclaimed work of Alison Crowther. Her stunning carvings, made with Leconfield Estate wood, may be seen globally, echoing last issue’s celebration of the Estate-oak gates at Waterloo, Belgium.

We are always very pleased to receive correspondence and submitted material – please do keep in touch. Finally, I would like to express my personal thanks to our outgoing Chairman, who has worked tirelessly to preserve the future wellbeing of the Petworth Society and its magazine, not least through the online archive which ensures deserved accessibility to the invaluable contributions of so many down the decades.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BASMATI TUNNELS

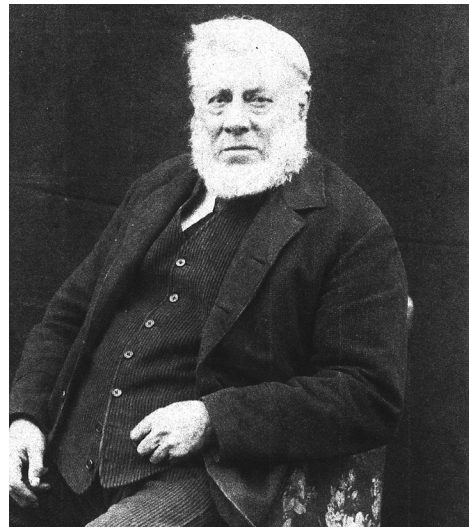
Hello Andy,  
What drew my attention was your first editorial about the tunnels that are now Basmati. Never in my youth did we (or at least I) know there were tunnels there. We had a ballroom up the steps next door to what is now Basmati and not only did we have regular dances there, along with in the Town Hall (now the Leconfield Hall) and the Iron Room (now long demolished). In 1964 we had our wedding reception in the Ballroom and the then manager, Terry Davis I think his name was, made a room available for us to change our clothes in. I could be wrong but the first I remember of those tunnels, although of course they may have been accessible from the Hotel itself, was sometime after the Swan Hotel closing and it being sold off and turned mainly into what it is now, although there were more shops including a patisserie at one time on the ground floor. I'm not sure again if Basmati were the first restaurant to be in the tunnels but probably.

Janet Duncton, Petworth

*Any further recollections from other readers on this subject would be gratefully received.*

### EDMUND COLLINS

Dear Andrew,  
There may be changes but what remains the same is the fascinating content of the *Petworth Society Magazine*. Each issue is keenly awaited and No. 191 didn't disappoint. I found the article by Ray Hunt in conversation most interesting. The photograph of Byworth is very familiar but there will be few who remember the original Barnsgate Farm, tenanted by my great-grandfather Edmund Collins. I think it burnt down in the 1930s. Shirley Stanford (née Knight), Fordingbridge



**OPPOSITE** Edmund Collins, a nineteenth-century tenant of Barnsgate Farm, Byworth.

**BELOW** An extract from a newspaper obituary of Mr Collins in 1898. Source unknown. The obituary continues with a list of the fifteen principal mourners in four carriages and the fourteen wreaths which were sent. Both images kindly submitted by Shirley Stanford.

## AN OLD SUSSEX FARMER.

### FUNERAL OF MR. COLLINS AT BYWORTH.

The funeral of Mr. Edmund Collins, of Barnsgate, Farm, Byworth, Petworth, who died on Friday evening last, took place yesterday afternoon at Petworth. Deceased who had reached the advanced age of 85 years, was the second oldest inhabitant of Byworth, and one of the oldest of Lord Leconfield's tenants. He was practically the father of the local Lodge of Oddfellows, "The Loyal Angel Lodge," Petworth, of which he was the first enrolled member. Deceased was one of the oldest Sussex farmers, and came of an old family of tillers of the soil. The house has now been in the family upwards of 75 years. It was first taken by Mr. John Collins, father of the deceased, who died in June, 1851, the deceased having therefore been the tenant for the last 47 years. Eight years ago, deceased was confined to his room, suffering with his legs and from then to the time of his death he had never left it. His wife died only about four months since in Guy's Hospital, London, where she was undergoing an operation. Deceased, who was well known about the neighbourhood and greatly respected by all, leaves three sons and six daughters. The body was enclosed in a coffin of polished wych elm, with brass furniture, and bore on the breast-plate the inscription:—Edmund Collins, died October 14th, 1898, aged 85 years. The roof of the hearse was covered with beautiful white wreaths.



# A gold ring in Petworth Park

Henry's archaeological walk. Alexandra Soskin

On Sunday 25 June, 2023 Henry Wakeford once again kindly led a walk in the Park to explore its heritage, both above and below ground. It was a scorching hot day; too hot for many, so it was a small, be-hatted, group that gathered at the Cowyard to venture forth.

Henry has personal and encyclopaedic knowledge of the Park. He has many family members who have been involved with the Leconfield Estate going back for generations. He has also been involved in every archaeological dig in the Park since 2012.

Referring to old maps and drawings he had brought with him we could see what Petworth House and its immediate surroundings looked like in the thirteenth to eighteenth centuries. The building as you see it today had a north wing – pulled down in 1692 – forming an ‘L’ shape and there was a formal garden. To the west of this, roughly where the current lawn meets the lake, there were enormous stables. Built around a quadrangle, with a grand, gated entrance, the stables could cater for up to 120 horses. Local gardeners at the time were very lucky! [See the illustration on page 31].

We circled round to look at the natural valley at the southern end of the Upper Pond. It is the only place where you can see over the wall from outside into the Park, as the land on the far side is higher than that within. When the new park perimeter wall was built in the eighteenth century a crop of corn from Frog Farm was stranded inside the new park. This valley was dammed to create the Upper Pond although the current dam – the stony track at the end of the pond – is not the original Capability Brown dam as the pond was extended southwards sometime later.

I have always wondered what the low ‘pill box’ structure is, under the trees near the Tillington paddock. Henry enlightened us: it is an air vent to the myriad water supply and drainage tunnels criss-crossing the park. Some of these tunnels go back to the fourteenth century.

We moved on to search for remaining signs in the ground of Snow Hill House and the now defunct Primrose Lane behind it. Snow Hill House was substantial; but it was in need of costly repair and no use could be found for it. So it was bulldozed in the 1980s.



**LEFT**

Seven views of the broad but delicate gold ring found at Lawn Hill in the Park. Probably a French love token dating from the fifteenth century, its imagery remains a mystery. Photograph courtesy of the National Trust.

The highlight of the walk had to be back up on what is now called Lawn Hill. Here, various digs have uncovered not only the foundations of what is thought to be a Tudor banqueting hall, but also a large number of pottery fragments as well as an entirely intact, astonishing French gold ring. It is thought the ring was a love token, given by a gentleman to his beloved. However, even the British Museum has been unable to interpret the writing or figures that circle the beautiful piece. Some things are destined to remain mysteries.

This is just a flavour of the walk. Along the way Henry regaled us with much more information than I have been able to capture here and illustrated everything with archive maps and materials. We could easily have gone on chatting with Henry beyond the allotted two-hours. Thank you, Henry for another excellent walk. I would love to hear more, so I do hope you will allow us to borrow you again next year.



# A thousand years of farming at Glatting

Annabelle Hughes. Introduction and drawings by Jonathan Newdick.  
Part one

*When the last tenant of Glatting Farm died in 2015 the property was put up for sale for the first time since it was bought by the Duke of Somerset in 1718. I then made many drawings of the farmhouse and its outbuildings, sometimes accompanied by Annabelle Hughes who was compiling a history of the site. The following is taken from her notes but are reproduced here without permission. Dr Hughes died in 2020 (obituary in the Guardian 16 December 2020) and I have not known who to approach for permission. However, by way of compensation, the new owner of Glatting has given a generous donation to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, a gesture of which I think Annabelle would have been in favour.*

Glatting is among those places in Sussex whose names are taken to be evidence for its antiquity of settlement. Recorded as ‘Clotinga’ in 1086, it is one of the ‘ingas’ group of place names, indicative of Saxon tribal territories, the local group being defined by their original leader ‘Clott’ or ‘Glott’, the sneerer. There may be a link with Glottenham near Rotherbridge in East Sussex.

There is also evidence in the landscape for pre-Roman activity – an ancient ‘covered way’ on Glatting Down and Bronze Age pottery of the Hallsatt type – as well as the nearby Roman villa at Bignor with its fine mosaics and associated road.

It seems likely that the estate farmed out to Ralf de Caisneto by 1086 had been cobbled together from the holdings of four freemen, and although no other assets of the manor are listed, its value had risen in the twenty years after the Conquest, and not long after 1086 the tithes of its produce were regarded as significant enough to be gifted to Lewes Priory. There was enough arable for three ploughs, although only a third was worked by the five families of the settlement. It was equal in hide value to Bignor, but half the size of Sutton, and smaller than the five hides apiece of Duncton, Barlavington and Burton. Its relationship to Bignor may be significant: Bignor was also held by Ralf de Caisneto, that too had been held by free men and that four-hide manor had manorial settlements that Glatting apparently lacked – meadow and woodland, mills and a church. It was Ralf’s grandson, Hugh, who gifted Bignor church to Lewes Priory, adding to his grandfather’s gift of the tithes of Glatting, so it is clear that the family continued to be principal tenants for generations, holding Glatting in tandem with Bignor.

In the mid-1200s, mention is made of income from a water mill and land that had once belonged to Godfrey de Glottinges and was possibly one of the Bignor mills. In 1258 a William of Burton (Budgeton) made an agreement with the prior of Lewes about the rent for three virgates (about 90 acres) which he held freely in Sutton.

Glatting does not feature in any of the three early printed taxation lists (1269, 1327 and 1332) but wealthy taxpayers named 'de Bodek' in the earlier list (two Williams and a Laurence) could indicate that leading men in Burton had become under-tenants of Glatting, and this is supported by other records. Intriguingly, the name of the prior of Hardham who was deposed by the Archbishop in 1299 for 'misrule, incontinence and adultery' was Robert de Bodeketon also Glottynge. He was sent to Tortington (used as a 'sin-bin' for Augustinians at the time) and the priory ordered to send on his clothes and belongings, and to pay the cost of his keep. He was apparently a man of influence, for the Bishop of Chichester had tried, and failed, to depose him two years earlier, and by the end of 1300 Robert had got himself appointed as prior of Shulbrede.

In 1327, a William of Hunston was taxed under Duncton, and in 1331 William the elder of Hunston and his wife Sybil were involved in a leasing arrangement with Gilbert of Burton (Bodeketon) which included a house, two mills, nearly 300 acres of arable, pasture and woodland and rents in Sutton. Some of the working papers for the 1332 taxation of the area survive among the Battle Abbey archives in the Huntington Library, and this provides the information (under Duncton) that Sir William de Hunstane held both Glatting and Burton, and supplies a list of the stock and crops. Included were five casks of cider noted as belonging to one of the tax collectors, a certain Nicholas Gentul. This strongly suggests the purchase from Gilbert of Burton in 1331 was Glatting demesne, but it is a puzzle that it was not described as a manor. Was it because its tenancies had already been hived off to other manors?

In the same year as this acquisition of Glatting, William acquired the manor of Hunston, with the right of descent through his five sons (Godfrey, William, John, Henry and Thomas) but he was dead by 1334, by which time Hunston had descended to his grandson. There are references in the printed Petworth accounts (1347-53) and the FitzAlan surveys which may be relevant here.<sup>1</sup> In 1352, under Sutton, Sir Walter Gest was paying 16 shillings a year for a piece of land, and in 1347 he paid 36 shillings 'for the manor of Bodeketon and other land'. In 1390 Umfray Wilde paid homage for Burton. Could these also have been lessees of Glatting, while it was still linked to Burton and before the Gorings arrived at the end of the fifteenth century? A single entry has been

**BELOW** Conjectural drawings describing the development of Glatting farmhouse from its origin as a fourteenth-century hall house (bottom). The upper drawing suggests how the house might have appeared before the nineteenth-century cross wing (indicated in outline) was added. Since this drawing was made it has become clear that the roof structure consists of two, or possibly, three fourteenth-century crown posts and not one as suggested here.





found in the Bignor court records for 1415 mentioning the 'farmer of Glottinge', apparently pasturing fifty sheep in the manor's Westcombe.

At some time in the fourteenth century, a fine open hall house was built at Glatting; the large two-bay (once) open hall of this house with its reconstructed 'service' bay still survives, now abutting a cross-wing which was (probably) a replacement in the nineteenth century. It is very clear that the hall was constructed against something that already existed, so in its turn it may well have replaced an earlier build of which a wing with an undercroft or cellar was retained. There is a strange piece of disconnected walling in the present cellar which may be relevant.

These pieces of information provide a possible scenario for the history of Glatting. Coupled at first with Bignor, the 'home farm' was then taken over by Burton, and its lands shared between Burton and Sutton by the end of the thirteenth century, suggesting fragmentation of the tenancies. By the late 1300s, the Chesney family<sup>2</sup> had disappeared from Sussex and their properties passed to Arundel, and to the north Petworth was asserting its dominance; two grants at the end of the 1300s mentioning woodland and a croft associated with Glatting, are made by men affiliated to Petworth.

It is not until the sixteenth century that a name can be put to a probable resident at the farm, rather than its landlord. In 1574, after an accidental death, a coroner's inquest was held at Glatting, and among the coroner's jurors was Robert Coote, senior. When William Coote 'of Sutton' made his will before dying in 1584, he named four sons – Robert, John, James and William, suggesting this was the same family; of the sons, William inherited the tenancy of free land held 'of Mr Chaisnye', James is described as 'of Glatting' in his will of 1593; and brother John's will of 1640 left the lease of Glatting to his wife Katherine. They had six sons, including a William, and nearly thirty years later William Cooke or Coote 'of Glatting' refused to pay his parish tax. Perhaps he was a potential Puritan, or just bloody-minded. All this should be set against Bignor parish records where John Coote paid tax in 1524. Family members served on juries from 1529 to 1579 and held manorial tenancies, and four Cootes signed the parish Protestation return in 1641.

It is likely that it was the Cootes who made significant changes to the hall; first creating a narrow bay towards one end of the hall to confine the smoke from the open fire, and partially flooring over the hall with a heavy girder and finely finished joists, and later building a masonry chimney stack into that narrow bay. Both these changes retained the (cross) passage across the house at the rear of the fireplace, and are testimony to the family's prosperity and status.

In 1608 Sir Henry Goring (1574-1626), who was living at Burton, to which his family had succeeded by the end of the fifteenth century, was described as 'lord of Glatting. This suggests the farm was then still a member of Burton, but barely ten years later it was among the assets of a Chichester gentleman, Nicholas Thompson, who died leaving teenage female heirs. By a deed of 1618 as 'now or late occupied by William Coote', feoffees of Henry Goring conveyed it to Thompson, stating that it had been settled on him ten years earlier, although this document has not been found.

Other references show that Thompson did have local connections: in a Bury manor record of 1603 he quitclaimed to a piece of land as the elder brother of John; a deed of 1619 relating to property in Tillington and Petworth records that Nicholas and his wife, Mary, were then living in the town, but he had moved to Chichester by 1623, when he purchased the manor of Felpham from a London saddler. When the two Thompson heiresses were disposing of Glatting in 1640, it was described as 'late occupied by William Coote, now William Ford'; the latter was among five members of the family who signed the Sutton Parish Protestation return in 1641. In 1653, when it was sold to Anthony Eversfield (d. 1691) it was 'now or late occupied by William Ford; in 1660 Eversfield leased it to Richard Croucher, and by 1672 it was no longer coupled with Felpham.

At some time during this period a major change was made to the farmhouse (probably by the Fords who made similar improvements to Shopham Bridge Farm) when a second stack was built to serve a hearth facing into the service bay, finally blocking the cross-passage, and the service bay was largely rebuilt.

After Richard Croucher 'of Glatting' died in 1691, a full inventory was taken at the farm, and both this and his will survive (see pages 18-19). The inventory lists items in five first-floor rooms (including a wool chamber) a hall, parlour, brewhouse, bakehouse and cider house, as well as a 'cellar chamber'. This latter may indicate that the cross-wing end then consisted of a single storey above the cellar.

Over four barns are named, including those at Littleton, and around the house there were 13 quarters of malt, 55 tods<sup>3</sup> of wool, 40 cheeses, a tub of butter, 40 pounds of lard, several sides of bacon and two barrels of cider as well as quantities of peas and beans. There is also extensive listing of stock and tools as well as debts owed by named individuals. Richard's will names five sons (including John and Owen) and five daughters, four of whom were married. He mentions his wife, although not by name, leaving her a quarterly income and furnishings for a 'chamber and parlour' in his house.

Richard's sons, John, Richard and Owen were his residual legatees and

executors, and at first John carried on at the farm, for he is described as 'of Glatting' in his extant will of 1713. His mother (Elizabeth) was still alive, and he left various items in a 'new chamber' to his wife Susan, who came from Chiddingfold. All his sisters were married by then, and his brother Owen was residual legatee and executor. Five years later the farm was sold to the Duke of Somerset of Petworth House, Owen became a Petworth tenant and a new era was born.

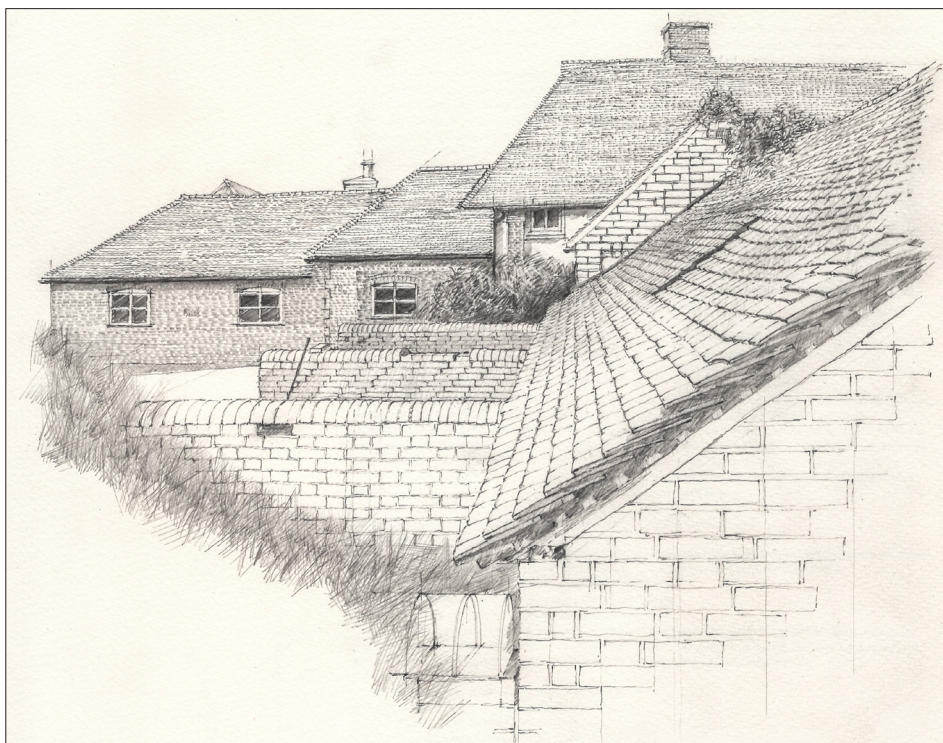
1. The fourteenth-century link with Hunston may be an echo of the much earlier links between coastal settlements in that vicinity and 'outliers' further north which had already developed independence by 1066.

2. By this time 'de Caisneto' had been anglicised to 'Chesney'. The family, with some references to Glatting, is dealt with in detail in 'Sussex Domesday Tenants' by L. F. Salzman in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Volume 65, 1924, pp. 20-53.

3. A tod is equal to about 28lbs.

This history will be concluded in the December issue.

**BELOW** The farmhouse today, with later additions on the left, from over the roof of the piggery.





## THE 1691 GLATTING FARM INVENTORY

Spelling, punctuation and other inconsistencies are true to the original. The kitchen is implied but not inventoried (unless a heading is missed before 'Item three Spits one Jack one iorn back' in the right hand column on this page).

A true and perfect inventory of All the goods and chattels both real and personal belonging to Richard Croucher Late of Glattling in the parish of Suttin in the county of Sussex deceased As it was taken by John Croucher of Eastdean and Thomas Downer of Bignor yeomen this ninth day of February in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred nynty one (1691) as followeth:

Imprimis wering Apparrell and money in his purse

**xxx£**

**Indoar goods**

**Item in the parlar** eight joyn stolls

One tabell, one Cupboard, one grate

Vallewed and Appraised **ii£**

**Item one clocke** vallewed and Appraised at **i£ xs**

**Item in the best chamber** one feather bed

Bedstedell and curtins and vallins to bolsters to

Pillows and blanckets one quilt one

Chest of draws and A box one press

One tabell one chair vallewed and Appraised at

**xii£**

**Item in the parlor chamber** to Beds

And bedstedells Fowr bolsters one

Pillow to coverlets to blanckets and to

Chests vallewed and Appraised at **v£**

**Item in Linnen** eighteen paire of sheets

Eighteene Napkins to pair of Pillocoats

Fowr Hannipars **v£ vs**

**Item in the chamber over the bakehouse**

To beds with with bedstedells Fowr blanckets one

coverlet vallewed and Appraised at

**iii£ xs**

**Item in the kitchen chamber** three beds and

Three bedstedells three blankets three

Coverlets Five bolsters one chest one tub

Vallewed and Appraised at **x£**

**Item in the kitchen chamber** thirteene

Quarters of Mault vallewed and appraised at **x£**

**Item in the woll chamber** Five and

Fifty tod of woll vallewed and Appraised at **xxxv£**

**Item** six wooden dishes two tine dishes three dzen

Of dishes A dozen of spones and other neceses

blong To the Kitchen **iiis**

**Item in the callar chamber** one bed one

Bedestell to blanckets one coverlet

To bolsters one pillow one chest vallewed

and Appraised at **iiii£**

**Item in the hall** one tabell and fowrn

One bench one dresser to wall covers one

Beckon rack vallewed and Appraised at **i£**

**Item** Five chaires to short fowrn

Vallewed and appraised at **vis**

**Item pewter** nyntene dishes Five porrengers three

Kandelsticks Fowr salts vallewed and Appraised

at **ii£ vs**

**Item in the brewhouse** three Kettels one

Furnace to Skillets vallewed and Appraised at **iiii£**

**Item** three iorn pots one Skillet to Kettels

vallewed and Appraised at **i£ xs**

**Item** one fring pan to Laten pans vallewed at **iid**

**Item** three Spits one Jack one iorn back

One Fire Shovell and tongs one Fender

to pot hangers one pair of grediorn one

Clever one plate ten Skivells one Flesh

Hooke one iorn pissell one iorn Foot vallewed And

Appraised **ii£**

**Item** to vates to tuns to bucking tubs

three Kivers and one tunnel one rening tub one

bearind tub one threligs Kivers vallewed and

Appraised at **ii£ is**

**Item** five buckets to chese preses to Stans

And three Forms vallewed and Appraised **xvis**

**Item** one dozen and A Half of Milktraies

Benches and Forms and A powdring tub

And shiellers vallewed and appraised **ii£**

**Item** Forty Cheeses one tub of Butter

Vallewed and Appraised at **iiii£ xs**

Item the backen hogs and seven porkers and To powdering tubs vallewed at **x£**

Item eight barrels thirteene hogseeds vallewed And Appraised at **ii£ xs**

Item five stands vallewed and Appraised at **x£**

Item in the bake hous one Kiver three Lethern Sacks three Meall tubs one bucket seven bottels Three sorches and A Meall sieve A pair of Scales Vallewed and Appraised at **i£ iis**

Item Forty pound of Lard vallewed at **i£**

Item two saddels one panel one pillion to Baskets three bushels of beans vallewed And Appraised at **i£ iiis**

Item to bushels one half bushel one gallon Five sives and Rudders Fowr Load of sacks Vallewed and appraised at **ii£ xiis**

Item one birding webbe

Item one dozen of Bottells and Half A dozen of Singell bottells vallewed And Appraised at **viiis**

In the sider house

Item one Mault mill one Sider mill One Sider press to iorn bars A new Quarn Stone vallewed and Appraised at **ii£ xiiis**

In the new barn

Item eight Load of wheat vallewed and Appraised at **xxxxx£**

Item ten quarters of peas vallewed and Appraised **viii£**

In the vatch barn

Item Fowr Load of tears vallewed and Appraised **xxxx£**

In the barly barn

Item Forty Quarters of barley vallewed and Appraised **xxx£**

Item to and thirty Quarters of Oats Vallewed and Appraised at **xvi£**

In littleton barns

Item Sixty Quarter of Barly vallewed and Appraised **xxx£**

#### Goods without doare

Item Seven Oxen vallewed and Appraised at **xxviii£**

Item Seven Cowes vallewed and Appraised at **xxi£**

Item Six Steares At Fowr years of Age vallewed and Appraised at **xv£**

Item Five Heaffers vallewed and Appraised at

Item ten beass at to years old vallewed And Appraised at **vii£ xs**

Item to Fating Oxen vallewed and Appraised at **x£**

Item nyne horses and to colts vallewed and Appraised at **xxx£**

Item Seven Fating hogs vallewed and Appraised **xiii£**

Item Five Hundred and eighty Ewe wethers and tags vallewed and Appraised at **clv£**

Item to hogseeds of Sider and half a hogsheds of Finegar vallewed and Appraised at **v£**

Item one wiming sheete vallewed husbandry tackeling **xvs**

Item three wagons and three Dungpots three plows six Harrows Fowr yockes Fowr Chaines An Ox harrow three Rowlers and other Implements Of husbandry vallewed and Appraised at **vi£ xis**

Item thirty Acres of wheat at Littleton and thirty more at Glatting Vallewed and Appraised at **xxxv£**

Debts owe to the decesed

due From John Saddler of Northchapell **vii£ viis** due From John Gobell for three Hogseeds of Sider **x£ xs** due From Robert Langley **xi£** due From Mr Bartlet **ii£** due From Mr Briscoe Late of Heshett **v£** due From John Wheatfield of Eastdean **i£ vis** due From William Roberts of Petworth **ii£ xiiis**

Item to corn shovels three bills three Axes to Saws and other husbandry tooles and other Lumber vallewed and Appraised at **ii£**

Item Hay vallewed and Appraised at **xx£**

Sum total **dcclxxix£ xvis [£779.16s]**

## T@P and other matters

Volunteering at the big house. Janet Austin

I have been a National Trust volunteer at Petworth House since the year 2000. Although it is nearly a quarter of a century now, it is still comparatively recent for memories to be of interest. However, during that period there have been dramatic changes to both Petworth and to life in general.

When I started volunteering, Petworth House opened just five days a week and on afternoons only, from one o'clock until five. It closed in the winter. Volunteers were expected to come for one afternoon a week or fortnight. It was leisurely and genteel. There was even an afternoon tea-break for volunteers, with cake. The house is now open seven days a week all year round. It is big business with all properties having ever-increasing targets set by the National Trust to fulfil.

The first change came during my second year when the house opened from eleven o'clock in the morning, although then with only limited access and still only five days a week. Morning visitors were restricted to the kitchens, manned by four or five volunteers, who would one by one, at twenty-minute intervals, disappear to lead a forty-minute conducted tour of the house. I remember one of my volunteer colleagues had a nice line with her party, when telling them what was forbidden when visiting the house. 'Remember', she would say, 'the three fs: fingers, phones and photos!'

Visitors are still not allowed to touch, but the National Trust lost the battle over photography and with the advent of smartphones they have embraced modern technology by encouraging on-line booking and the loading of apps. Only recently I came across a group of three youngish adult visitors, each holding their phones using both hands, with thumbs at the ready and completely confused looking for the objects mentioned. However, it still needed my expert knowledge to gently tell them they were in a different room! The house tours had to pause during my second year for the 'Turner at Petworth' exhibition. This was an incredible time, for not only was there a main exhibition in the house devoted to Turner, but also a contemporary artist-in-residence show by Langlands *é* Bell, plus a Moonlit Path by Andy Goldsworthy in the park. Comparing 'T@P', as it affectionately became known, with the later Turner exhibitions at Petworth is a bit like comparing a



pop festival for the world and his wife with a classical concert for music lovers.

The exhibition ran from 6 July to 29 September. It was free to National Trust members with just the normal house entrance fee for non-members. There was no restriction on numbers. The staff had anticipated an increased attendance at the beginning and another surge at the end and they devised a route where entry to the house was by the Luggage Passage, at that time not in use. It was strictly one way round, starting with the North Gallery and exiting by the Marble Hall. This unusual exit meant putting in a ramp from the terrace and a trackway across the rougher terrain of the park back to the more manicured North Lawn. (I did not use it myself as I left at the end of the day.) Throughout the exhibition period, the number of visitors did not let up and everyone was surprised by the sheer volume. It was in the region of 1,500 visitors every day, which amounted to 80,000 over the three-month period. The General Manager told us that most visitors went away happy, with only one or two complaints a day and a few comments about the layout, lighting and contemporary art.

The reason for 'Turner at Petworth' was to celebrate the final two years of a ten-year project to restore the house to its golden age of the 3rd Earl of Egremont (1751-1837). This had culminated with the conservation and refurbishment of the Carved Room at a cost of £500,000. The room had gone through a big change during the Victorian period, when in 1871 the second Lord Leconfield dismantled the the 3rd Earl's scheme. This had included removing the four Turner paintings commissioned from him for that particular room. By returning them, it would make Petworth the only setting, apart from Harewood House in Yorkshire, where visitors could see Turner's paintings in their original settings. The refurbishment would also involve removing a dado rail and returning and replacing large areas of panelling and carving.

At the beginning of 2000, the Carved Room was still dressed as a Victorian drawing room, viewed by visitors from a roped-off walkway on the park side. The National Trust guidebook of 1997 mentioned that the 'National Trust was considering reconstituting it as part of the essential, and increasingly urgent, conservation of the Carved Room's woodwork'. By the following year I remember passing through the room which was shrouded by dust sheets and noticing a fireplace which was being reinstated and revealing how thick the walls are. The void behind the panelling was filled with rubble and I thought to myself that it was a bit of jerry-building from the past.

I also remember in those early years of visitors asking where the Red Room was. They could not find it because it was not red but yellow. It had

been red in the 3rd Earl's time, when it had been described as the 'New Crimson Room by the North Gallery'. But in 1952 Anthony Blunt, an art expert before he was revealed as a spy, was let loose on the collection. He gathered together nearly all the Turner paintings and put them there which then became known as the 'Turner Room'. Anthony Blunt also rehung the walls with yellow silk. By 2000 it had been renamed the Red Room in anticipation of its refurbishment.

Appropriately it was the Red Room which was to display Turner's full-scale studies for the four pictures which were to be returned to the Carved Room and which were sent down from the Tate for the exhibition. In all, the Tate lent eleven oil paintings, but the biggest draw were the fifty little watercolours painted by Turner in 1827 for his own pleasure and representing scenes around the house and park. They roughly measure six by eight inches and are on blue paper. They are so delicate that they rarely see the light of day. The last time they had been seen at Petworth was thirty years before. They were displayed in specially made cabinets in the North Gallery, not the lightest of places but the curator was continually measuring the light levels falling on them. The crowds milling round them blocked out much of the light anyway.

However, the biggest attraction of the exhibition appeared to be the opening of the Old Library, used as a studio by Turner and his fellow artists and never before opened to the public. Here, the crowd had to line up in the Oak Hall ready to be escorted up the stairs in groups of 25. This was on the advice of the fire service for health and safety reasons. I was one of the guides waiting at the top of the stairs to take visitors into the library.

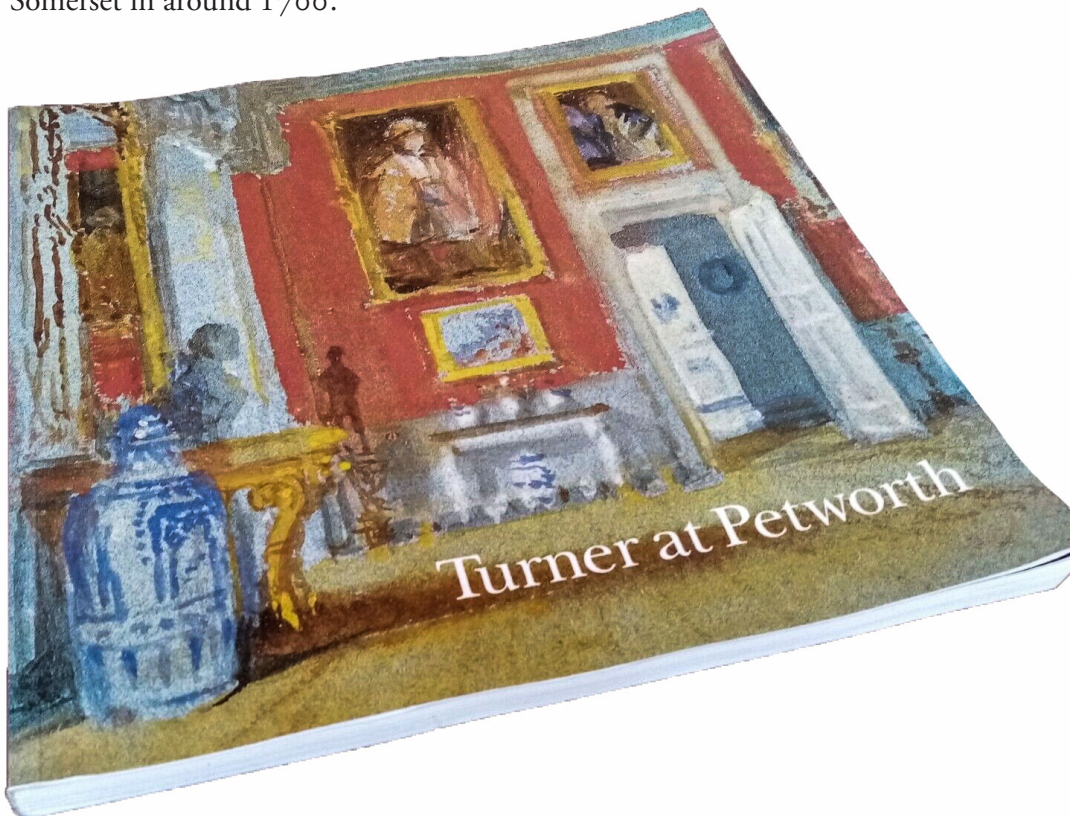
My third year of volunteering was one of the most interesting for me, and I learnt a lot which has not been forgotten because the Tate and the National Trust produced a *Turner at Petworth* catalogue. It was sold for £19.99 at the time but I bought a copy when there was a short window when they reduced the price, only to put the price back up in subsequent years. It is one of my treasured possessions. Langlands & Bell also produced a catalogue for £19.99 but I never bought a copy. As for Andy Goldsworthy's

**BELOW**

'I bought a copy ... It is one of my treasured possessions'. The 'T@P' (Turner at Petworth) exhibition catalogue.

Moonlit Path, I only came across that later in 2002 during a Petworth Society walk on a Sunday afternoon. It was a path made through the trees at the north end of the park. Parts of it are still visible today.

Since 2002 we have had many other excellent exhibitions and research projects, but none so flamboyantly celebrated as 'Turner at Petworth'. However, I have a sudden feeling that it all might happen again. This is because the National Trust are working on another seemingly impossible and expensive task, similar to the restoration of the Carved Room. This is the transformation of the Beauty Room to how it was in the time of the Duke and Duchess of Somerset in around 1700.





## ‘Get down there and save the books’

The fire at Coultershaw Mill in April 1923. Hazel Flack

One hundred years ago this year, in the early hours of Sunday 8 April 1923, shortly after millworker Horace White had finished his shift at midnight, Coultershaw Mill went up in flames. Mill workers, policemen, firemen, farm-workers and other local people rushed to the Mill from all around in attempts to tackle the blaze.

To commemorate the events of that night, Coultershaw Research Group put together an exhibition, with information panels, a slide-show and a vintage brass fire hose nozzle and fire bell similar to those used at that period. The exhibition was displayed in the warehouse at Coultershaw over two weekends in April 2023 to commemorate the centenary. This article expands on the exhibition.

There are a number of contemporary accounts of this event, including some by people who were present, published in previous editions of this magazine (see references at end) and this article draws them together to tell a chronological story. Before starting the story, let's meet some of the people involved.

John Gwillim and his family were associated with Coultershaw Mill from 1907 until 1972. Brought up in south Wales, where he also did his millworker training at Spillers Flour Mills in Cardiff, he moved to West Sussex with his young family in 1902, in order to take on the lease at North Mill, Midhurst. Five years later, when the lease became vacant, he also took on Coultershaw Mill, and then added Fittleworth Mill from 1918. (For a short time in the early 1920s, he also leased Wassell Mill at Ebernoe). At the time of the fire he was living with his wife and children at Fittleworth Mill. We are fortunate to have a detailed record of John, his family and the work of all the mills under his care, thanks to the stories told by his daughter Phyllis Catt in *A Miller's Daughter*.

The other family who had a long association with Coultershaw Mill were the Hollingdales, from the mid-nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century. We first find John George Hollingdale (mill foreman) and his wife Eliza (née Forder) in the 1861 census living at 'Coulters Hall [probably an error by the enumerator], Rotherbridge' with a young baby. Over the next twenty-four years they had a further thirteen children (six of whom died in infancy

or childhood). Their eldest child, Richard, became a corn-miller at Bexley in Kent, and later an engine-driver in Lambeth. Annie (born 1862) worked as a domestic cook in rectories at Brighton and Petworth. George (born 1864) had a range of jobs throughout his working life, including groom, gardener, miller at Easebourne and cowman in Petersfield, and from 1920 to 1928 he was fire superintendent at the Midhurst fire brigade. Ernest (born 1875) followed his father's profession, taking over from him at Coultershaw as the mill foreman in the early 1900s. At some point he began to be known as 'Uncle'.

In 1923, Ernest was living at Heath End with his wife Minnie (née Knight) and their three sons Ernest (17, known as Ern), William Herbert (13, known as Bert) and Reginald (10). Ern started working at the mill from the age of twelve, initially just on Saturdays as a flour packer, then from the age of fourteen until he was twenty he worked full time at the mill.

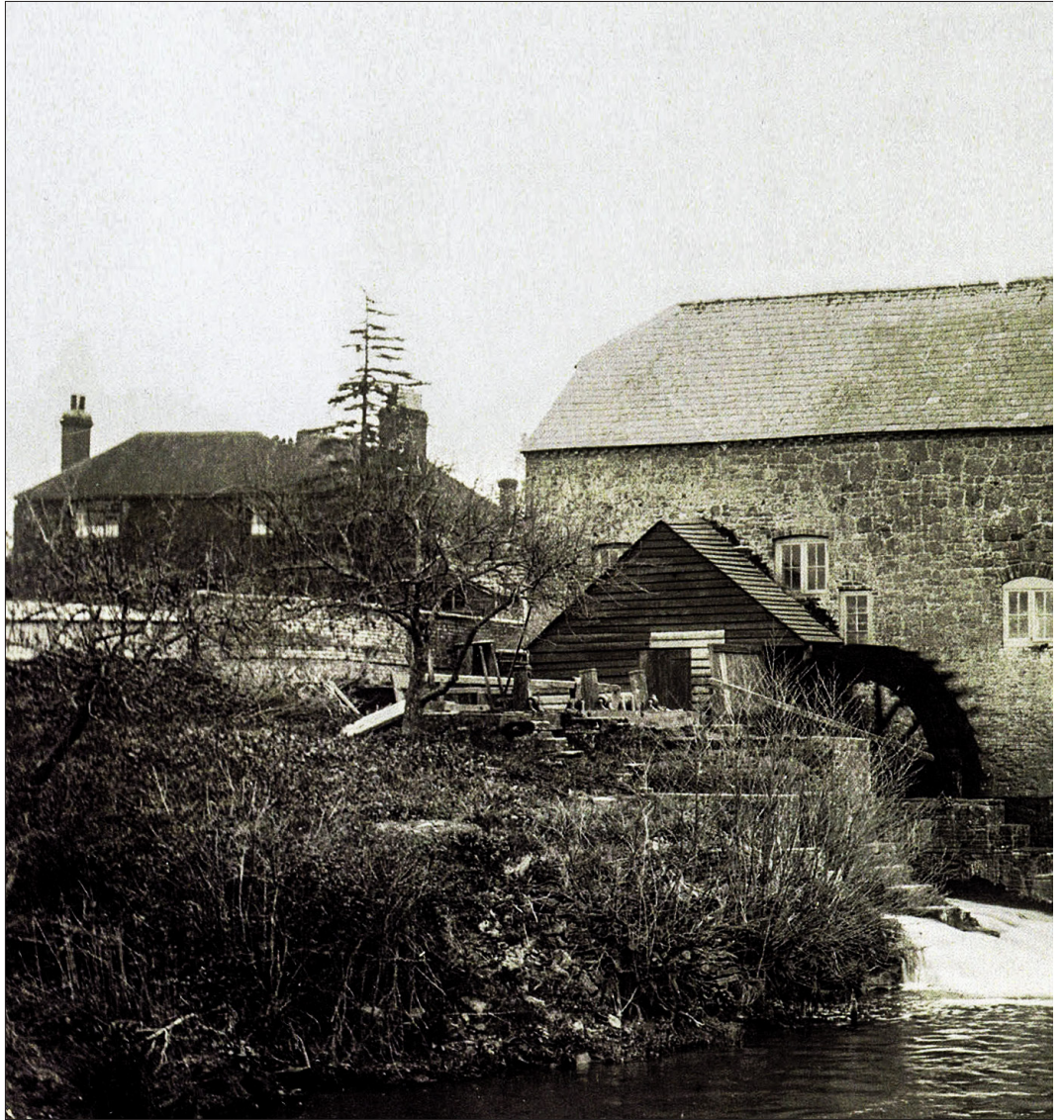
The Moase family had farmed at Hoes Farm, near Coultershaw, from 1884. Albert Moase specialised in heavy and carriage horses, as well as keeping sheep and dairy cows and growing corn, while his wife Annie ran the dairy with help from her daughter. After Albert's death, Lord Leconfield arranged for Annie and her family to move to the smaller Coultershaw Farm, which in 1923 she was managing with the help of her brother and two of her children: Blanche (32) and John (23, known as Jack) who had served during the latter end of the Great War.

Other people whose memories have been drawn from for this article are Bill Ede, a former groundsman at Petworth, Nancy Kingsley, who grew up at Heath End garage, and Vic Reed, whose father was a member of the Leconfield fire crew, though we don't know if he attended the Coultershaw Mill fire.

The mill would normally work from Monday to Saturday, closing for Sundays. There was usually a split shift at the weekend, with the mill running at lower capacity from 6 p.m. to midnight on the Saturday, and from midnight on Sunday to 6 a.m. on the Monday. Horace White was covering the first part of this split shift on Saturday 7 April 1923, and reported that everything seemed as normal when he left the premises at around half an hour after midnight.

The first sign that something was wrong was when flames were seen coming from an upper window of the mill. Annie Moase and her family were closest as they lived opposite, and were woken by the sound of the flames. They quickly got up and dressed, and began moving animals to safety as they were afraid the fire might cross the road to their farm buildings.

Meanwhile Ern and Bert Hollingdale recalled a neighbour from nearby





**BELOW**

Before the fire. Coultershaw Mill from across the mill-pond photographed by George Garland. A fine building aesthetically incomparable to its replacement (see page 29).





Station Cottages rattling the windows of their home at Heath End, and shouting, 'Uncle, your mill's on fire!' Ernest senior, in his panic to get dressed, was delayed by somehow putting both legs into one leg of his trousers, and he shouted to his eldest son, 'Get down there and save the books' (meaning the accounts, which were kept in a wooden building known as the office). Ern ran quickly to the bridge, where the heat from the fire was so intense he had to put his arm over his face in order to cross it. No fire crews had arrived yet, and Ern could see that it was probably already too late to save the mill as the roof was well alight, with 'flames lighting up the night for a great distance around'.

Those flames were seen at Byworth by two policemen, Constables Whitehead and Weller, who on spotting them immediately made their way to Coultershaw, where they met up with Superintendent Alce from Petworth and several other local police officers, who had also been alerted through the light in the sky.

The Petworth town fire crew was summoned by the bells ringing on the town-hall roof, and led by Captain Steadman they rushed to Henry Streeter's stables in the town square to collect the horses which drew the fire engine, then made their way as fast as possible to the fire. (These same horses also drew the town bus, and at times when the fire engine was needed during the daytime they occasionally had to wait for the bus – and horses – to return from the station. Fortunately, this was not an issue on this occasion.) Ern Hollingdale says that they couldn't hear the bells at Coultershaw, but a lot of people in Petworth clearly did and quite a crowd came along to watch, while others gathered to offer help as required.

The Leconfield Estate also had a fire brigade with their own uniforms, and while its main role was to tackle fires on the estate, it also attended fires at outlying farms. Members of this crew, who had use of a steam-powered fire engine with two hoses to the pump, also received the call to attend at Coultershaw. Some of them, who lived in Percy Terrace, had been summoned by electric bells the size of dinner plates in their bedrooms. Messages were also sent to Midhurst requesting their fire brigade to provide support.

The Petworth town crew was the first to arrive, soon after three a.m. Unfortunately, it was already too late to save the mill itself, or the wooden office along with Ernest senior's accounts. The decision was made to try to contain the fire and concentrate on preventing it spreading to other buildings. They therefore parked up hard beside the bridge so that they could reach the water with their hose in order to douse the stables – with their tarred weatherboarding – and enable the horses to be led to safety. One onlooker

recalled a fireman standing in the millpond, shouting 'Where's the water?' 'You're in it!' came the reply. Eight men had to work a lever on the pump (four men each side) to draw water from the mill pond, but it was slow as there was only the one hose. It was very hard work and other strong men from the spectators were conscripted to help out the fire crews.

Next to arrive were the Leconfield Estate crew with their steam engine. Ern tells us that as they made their way to Coultershaw, 'Mr Crawley [was] desperately at work getting up a head of steam at the rear'. Finally, the Midhurst fire brigade arrived, in their smart brass helmets, and led by Ern's uncle George Hollingdale, the fire superintendent. They had a motor-driven fire engine (quite an innovation for the time) with a powerful pump and two hoses.

Also, late to arrive was the miller and leaseholder, John Gwillim, as the news took a while to reach him where he lived with his family at Fittleworth Mill. John's daughter, Phyllis Catt, said many years later that the fire had been a disaster for her father, and she thought her mother was 'afraid of Father losing his mind with the worry'.

Onlookers were commandeered to help by forming a human chain between the river and the Coultershaw farm buildings, assisting the firemen to throw water over the hot tiles and preventing them from catching light. As dawn broke, the three fire crews were still hard at work preventing further damage from the fire, but all that remained of the old stone mill was a shell. Once danger to other buildings had passed, someone was despatched to the Railway Inn (now known as Badgers) to get some refreshments for the exhausted fire crews. Henry Streeter, who owned the horses used by the Petworth fire crew, was also the licensee of the Railway Inn, and is famously reputed to have said, 'Yes there's bread and cheese and something to drink, but if you'd told me you were coming I'd have got something prepared!'

More onlookers arrived as the morning went on. Nancy Kingsley, who was then a child living at the Heath End garage, was shown around the ruins of the mill by her father at around ten o'clock on the Sunday morning. She remembered being astonished at the sight of green shoots protruding from grains that had survived the fire. She was told that this was caused by a combination of the heat from the fire and the water from the firemen's hoses. Ern Hollingdale, on the other hand, spoke over fifty years later of his memory that where the great corn storage bins had been, they found only piles and piles of burnt nails.

No single firm cause was established. One theory was spontaneous combustion, either from dust lying alongside spilled candle grease, or from

grit getting into the hot rollers, just before the mill was shut down on the Saturday night. In his memories of growing up in his father's mill in Suffolk, John Munnings, the nephew of the artist Sir Alfred Munnings (1878-1959), best known for his paintings of horses, mentions the increased likelihood of fires in mills after they had gas or diesel engines fitted to increase efficiency and production. However, there is no specific evidence that this caused the Coultershaw fire.

Nobody died in the fire and there are no records of any serious injuries. The horses and farm buildings were saved thanks to quick thinking by the Moase family and combined efforts of many people who had arrived to help. Also undamaged was the five-ton Foden steam wagon which John Gwillim had purchased to replace the horses for longer journeys, in particular to and from Portsmouth, where the mill had a good trade in wheat flour. It was generally driven by the carter 'Pa' White, father of Horace White, who was working on that fateful final shift on the night of Saturday 7th April.

Following the fire, decisions had to be made about the future of the mill. Fortunately for John Gwillim, Lord Leconfield agreed to help with the cost of rebuilding, and Phyllis explains that her father had the opportunity to help design the new mill, and to choose all the latest machinery, also supervising the works. Meanwhile, Ernest and Ern Hollingdale went to work at North Mill at Midhurst for a while, though they did return when the new mill was completed. Much to his father's disappointment Ern junior stopped working there in 1925 in order to work for Boxalls the builders, though he did come back for a while during the war. Ernest senior continued working at the mill until he died at the age of 67 following a serious accident at the mill.

The replacement mill, designed as a 43-foot steel and concrete cube, was completed in 1924. Phyllis tells us that her father John Gwillim was kept very busy in the new mill, also having great success in national flour-making competitions, winning six gold medals and the Miller's Cup. John died in February 1929 at only 53, having suffered a stroke. His son Gordon then took over the management of the mill, until his own death in 1970, when his wife Dorothy took charge.

Sadly, the new mill had stood for only 22 years before it too was seriously damaged by fire in 1946, and much of the machinery was destroyed due to a lack of fire-fighting equipment. Repairs and reconstruction work were carried out, and the mill continued to operate for a further 26 years until the lease was surrendered in 1972. It was finally demolished in 1973.

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**BELOW** A detail of a watercolour drawing of the new mill at Coultershaw by John R. Davies. The concrete and steel structure functioned as a mill for less than fifty years before being demolished in 1973.





## PICTURE NOTE

Andrew Loukes

*A prospect of the old Petworth House and Stables* possibly by Leonard Knyff (1650-1722) c.1685. Oil on canvas, 162 x 239 cms. The Duke of Northumberland.

This large painting of Petworth House and Stables represents a scene which is wholly unrecognisable today. It shows a view of the old house from a position just in front of the area which would be excavated in the following century by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown to form the current upper pond within Petworth Park. The prominent building in the foreground is the stable block which Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland built sometime after his release in 1621 from the Tower of London, where he had been imprisoned for his suspected – and unlikely – involvement in the Gunpowder Plot.

The stables, built to accommodate some sixty horses, were later described by Daniel Defoe as ‘... the finest of their Kind in all the South of England, and equal to some Noblemen’s whole houses.’ Their grandeur reflects Northumberland’s equestrian interests, explored fully in a recent article by Robert Jackson, who describes the block at Petworth as then ‘the largest non-royal stables in Europe’ and details the Earl’s ownership, training and riding of horses before, and particularly during, his lengthy prison sentence.<sup>1</sup>

Around the same period as the construction of the stables, c.1622-23, Northumberland also extended Petworth House itself both southwards towards the town and westwards into the park, lengthening the so-called ‘north wing’ to form the L-shaped building seen here in the middle distance. Some seventy years later the house was completely rebuilt and the stables subsequently removed for Northumberland’s great granddaughter Elizabeth and her husband the Duke of Somerset, whom she had married in 1682. Their building work took place between 1688 and 1703 to the basic form we know today, with parts of the old house still being demolished up to 1692 when George Gardiner was paid ‘for taking down the old hall’.<sup>2</sup>

While the question of who made the painting has never been satisfactorily

resolved, their identity could have a significant bearing on the date and consequently our reading of its imagery. As late as the publication of the catalogue of the Northumberland Collection in 1930 the artist was given as 'English School XVIIth Century' but in more recent years the names of Jan Griffier (c.1652-1718) and Jacob Knyff (1639-1681), two Dutch artists who worked in England, have been suggested. While an attribution to Griffier is plausible, his surviving country house views are generally more compact and precisely handled than the view of old Petworth House. Jacob Knyff is less likely, as an artist who was primarily a marine painter and whose death in 1681 would also narrow the possible date parameters for the painting, which is unlikely to be much earlier than 1680.

Jacob Knyff's brother, Leonard Knyff (1650-1722), however, perhaps emerges as the most likely candidate. There are parallels with this artist's



other expansive views populated with human and animal figures, such as his *Hampton Court, Herefordshire* (Yale Center for British Art), *Richmond Terrace* (Richmond Museum) and *Orchard Portman* (The Royal Collection). The younger Knyff arrived in England in 1681, the year before the Somersets' marriage, allowing him to have done the painting prior to the commencement of their rebuild. As an example of one of his earlier British works, this may also explain its occasional looser handling as a painting which predates the more detailed manner he later developed in a celebrated partnership with the engraver Jan Kip during the early years of the eighteenth century.

If the painting was commissioned by the Somersets, the presence of the famously 'Proud' Duke is signalled by the arrival of a grand carriage drawn by six white horses with gold-liveried footmen running at full tilt in the middle distance [see detail opposite above]. Furthermore, the artist's prioritisation of such prominent stabling would have endorsed the Duke's credentials for his new-found positions within the royal court during this period, particularly as Colonel of the Queen's Light Dragoons to James II in 1685. He would later become Queen Anne's Master of the Horse. Aside from its principally architectural subject-matter, the further details of the painting collectively conjure an atmosphere of an active and sociable personal court, where horses are exercised, dogs are walked, gardens are maintained, deliveries are made and bowls are played on the lawn to the north of the house. Meanwhile, fashionable peacocks can be seen on the walled-lawn adjacent to the stables [see detail opposite below].

The artist was also sure to indicate the proximity of the mansion to the town in his representation of a build-up of houses around the area we now know as North Street. An inexplicable fog shrouds the buildings to the south, including the church. This unresolved and coarsely handled passage of painting is at odds with the rest of the carefully structured composition and was perhaps among the 'several Alteracons in the picture of Petworth' which a 'Mr. Carter' was paid to make in 1695, along with a (now lost) view of the Northumberland seat at Syon House,<sup>3</sup> although why the Duke and Duchess of Somerset should have wanted this area of the Petworth painting obliterated remains a mystery. The disguising of accidental damage always remains a possibility in explaining such things.

Never intended for display at Petworth House, the painting has remained in the Northumberland collection and may be seen today by visitors to Syon House.



Two details from *A prospect of the old Petworth House and Stables*.

**LEFT**

The arrival of the Proud Duke (?) with a game of bowls beyond and old North Street in the distance.

**BELOW**

Fashionable peacocks, dog-walkers and gardeners in the stable garden.



The painting and its details are reproduced by kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, with additional thanks to Clare Baxter, Collections and Archives Manager, Northumberland Estates.

1. See London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Transactions, No.71, 2020.
2. Petworth House Archives 234.
3. Petworth House Archives 217.



## Petworth Gaol in the 1851 census

Andrew Howard

When researching Ancestry UK for details of the residents of 346 High Street for the last issue I stumbled across the 1851 census return for Petworth Gaol. It lists 132 prisoners of whom 120 are male, plus two babies, presumably accompanying their mothers, as well as those living at the Governor's house that night. It occurred to me that it might be interesting to find out who they were. Unfortunately, their offences are not recorded, but at least they had avoided execution, if prolonged solitary confinement and the treadmill were the preferred option. Maybe the warm bed and regular meals made up for it, or maybe not. Anyway, this is what I have been able to find. In a slightly earlier age when the death sentence was widely applied to even the most trivial of offences it was not unusual for a jury to find a clearly guilty offender not guilty to spare him the death sentence.

My awareness of Petworth Gaol was first piqued by learning that two very young sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Holt, third cousins on my maternal grandfather's side, were sentenced to three months' hard labour in Petworth Gaol in the 1840s for running away from Chichester Workhouse *in workhouse clothing* – a heinous crime by any standard. One young brother simply disappeared from Chichester, only to re-surface in Australia in the 1860s. Another



One of the many graffiti cut by prisoners in the one remaining wall of Petworth Gaol. These elegantly cut initials could, perhaps, have been inscribed by Henry Issacs (prisoner No. 11 on page 36).

brother's son progressed from poverty to meriting a full-page report of his funeral in 1921 in the local press, and one of the latter's sons scored international press headlines in 1935, but that tragedy is another story.

The Chichester Workhouse register (now rather worn) lists them thus:

NAMES of each Person who abode therein on the Night of Sunday, June 6th.	Age	Age	OCCUPATION, if any.	Where Born	
	of Males.	of Females.		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign
Elizabeth Holt		15		No	X
Mary Holt		14		Yes	
Lane Holt		10		Yes	
Agnes Holt		7		Yes	
Christopher Holt	7			Yes	

**COMMENTARY ON THE CENSUS RETURN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES**

The handwriting of the Census official is neat, but often difficult and sometimes impossible to decipher. This is not helped by the regular striking through of age and gender entries. I have done my best. The almost identical entries for prisoners Nos. 56 and 96 suggest the official became confused – or were those two inmates who were apparently both servants from St James, Westminster just having a lark? Surnames and place names are as spelled in the census – ‘Lewis’ for ‘Lewes’ for example.

There is a fairly wide age range, but with a bias towards the younger end of the scale. Two babies are accompanying their mothers. All of them come from the lower echelons of society, with agricultural labourers predominating. This latter point reflects the mainly rural situation in which they lived. Were the professional classes all very honest or just cleverer at not getting caught? It comes as no surprise that the majority were born in Sussex.

Ref	Name	Standing	Sex	Condition	Age	Profession	Place of birth
1	Mance, John	Head	M	Widower	58	Governor of the Gaol	Buckinghamshire, Datchett
2	Moore, Stephen	Staff	M	Married	32	Turnkey	Hampshire, Portchester
3	Pannell, George	Staff	M	Married	47	Watchman	Sussex, Petworth
4	Bridger, Alfred	Staff	M	Married	28	Turnkey	Sussex, Tillingham
5	Sholter, Hannah	Staff	F	Widow	44	Matron to Prison	Ireland
6	Greenfield, Margaret	Visitor	F	Married	36	Niece	Middlesex, Camden Town
7	Greenfield, Ellen	Visitor	F	Single	10	Visitor	Sussex, Petworth
8	Greenfield, Samuel	Visitor	M	Single	1	Nephew	Surrey, Lambeth
9	Rapson, Alfred	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	17	Sawyer	Sussex, Lodsworth
10	Williams, Richard	Prisoner	M	Married	46	Barber	(indecipherable)
11	Issacs, Henry	Prisoner	M	Married	26	Tramp	Sussex, Sompting
12	Pearson, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	21	Agricultural labourer	Lincolnshire, (indecipherable)
13	Feist, Charles	Prisoner	M	Married	63	Shoemaker	Sussex, Horsham
14	Bason, Elizabeth	Prisoner	F	Unmarried	15	Servant	Sussex, Pagham
15	Collingham, Henry	Prisoner	M	Married	38	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Lancing
16	Harkworth, Mary	Prisoner	F	Married	30	Servant	Middlesex, (indecipherable)
17	Heridge, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	14	Agricultural labourer	Shropshire
18	Nayton, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Married	21	Miller	Sussex, Heathfield
19	Green, John	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	27	Stonemason	Lancashire, Oldham
20	Winter, John	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	72	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Buxted
21	Thompkins, Richard	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	24	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Lewis
22	Burgh, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Married	31	Servant	Kent
23	Harker, William	Prisoner	M	Married	28	Coffee House owner	Middlesex
24	Rooker, George	Prisoner	M	Married	36	Painter	Essex, Chelmsford
25	Harker, John	Prisoner	M	Married	17	Hoop maker	Sussex, Chichester
26	Cressweller, James	Prisoner	M	Married	27	Seaman	Hampshire, Hayling Island
27	Gaulling, William	Prisoner	M	Married	22	Seaman	Hampshire, Hayling Island
28	Shapps, James	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	60	Seaman	Hampshire, Hayling Island
29	Boucher, Mary	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	19	(indecipherable)	Surrey, Dorking
30	Pannell, Emily	Prisoner	F	Unmarried	18	Servant	Sussex, Washington
31	Stevens, William	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	24	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Lodsworth
32	Salter, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	22	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Lavant
33	Stacy, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	17	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Brighton
34	Green, William	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	19	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Brighton
35	Hall, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	27	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Trotton

Ref	Name	Standing	Sex	Condition	Age	Profession	Place of birth
36	Lewis, Mary A	Prisoner	F	Unmarried	24	Prostitute	Berwick, Bammburgh
37	Buck, William	Prisoner	M	Married	36	Bricklayer	Surrey, Reigate
38	Eames, Robert	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	21	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, (indecipherable)
39	Harling, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	16	Miller	Surrey, Haslemere
40	Penfold, Mathias	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	21	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, (indecipherable)
41	Penfold, James	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	21	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, (indecipherable)
42	Budd, William	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	22	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Westdean
43	Brawn, Henry	Prisoner	M	Married	34	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Chichester
44	Head, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	13	Errand boy	Sussex, Worthing
45	Himmill, William H	Prisoner	M	Married	41	Lodging House keeper	Essex, Dagenham
46	Barns, Joseph	Prisoner	M	Married	24	Fisherman	Sussex, Bognor
47	Ragless, Joseph *1	Prisoner	M	Married	37	Fisherman	Sussex, Bognor
48	Stent, James	Prisoner	M	Married	40	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Trotton
49	Sampson, John	Prisoner	M	Married	21	Fisherman	Cornwall, Falmouth
50	Kinchett, James	Prisoner	M	Widower	65	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Washington
51	Nicholls, William	Prisoner	M	Married	25	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Warninghurst
52	Damper, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	18	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Rotherfield
53	Delves, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	18	Porter	Sussex, Lewis
54	Hog, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Married	25	Ironfounder	Out of county (indecipherable)
55	Toomey, Charles	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	28	Agricultural labourer	Warwickshire, Coventry
56	Edwards, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Widower	22	Servant	London, Westminster St. James
57	Pannell, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	19	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Burwash
58	Pannell, John	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	20	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Burwash
59	Jones, James	Prisoner	M	Married	55	Confectioner	Worcester
60	Fourle, Henry	Prisoner	M	Married	58	(indecipherable)	Sussex, Horsham
61	Nicholls, John B	Prisoner	M	Married	60	Cook	Essex, Rockford
62	Jones, Stephen	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	20	Butcher	Sussex, Lawton
63	Hawson, William R	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	27	Sawyer	Sussex, Leinster
64	Gates, William	Prisoner	M	Married	34	Blacksmith	Sussex, Hastings
65	Adams, Frederick	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	17	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Newhaven
66	Wicks, Charles	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	18	Blacksmith	Sussex, Brighton
67	Foard, John	Prisoner	M	Married	36	Shoemaker	Sussex, Keymer
68	Waldon, John	Prisoner	M	Married	31	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Shermondsbury
69	Whitney, James	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	14	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Brighton
70	Jones, Ann	Prisoner	F	Unmarried	20	Hawker	Sussex, Heathfield



Ref	Name	Standing	Sex	Condition	Age	Profession	Place of birth
71	Jones, Eliza	Prisoner	F	Married	30	Washerwoman	Hampshire, Portsmouth
72	Saunders, Unity	Prisoner	F	Unmarried	20	Charwoman	Sussex, Hailsham
73	Tice, Robert	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	21	Sailor	France
74	Benn, Alexander	Prisoner	M	Married	29	Sailor	France, Cherbourg
75	Mills, Maria	Prisoner	F	Unmarried	17	Servant	Sussex, Aldingbourne
76	Foster, David	Prisoner	M	Married	30	Hunter	Sussex, Nuthurst
77	Bravey, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	47	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Rudgwick
78	Peters, James	Prisoner	M	Married	50	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Cowfold
79	Tullett, Charle	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	27	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Horsham
80	Murelle(?), James	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	27	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Ashurst
81	Chase, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Widower	45	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Kingston
82	Holden, Edward	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	19	Agricultural labourer	Hampshire, Basingstoke
83	Castle, Rose	Prisoner	F	Married	51	(indecipherable)	Middlesex, Sunbury
84	Verlette, James	Prisoner	M	Married	35	(indecipherable)	Oxfordshire (indecipherable)
85	Nalder, James	Prisoner	M	Married	38	Farmer	Sussex, Rudgwick
86	Nigar(?), James	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	14	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Bosham
87	Lassiter, Hammond	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	22	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Storrington
88	Burn, Edward	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	22	Agricultural labourer	Ireland
89	Baker, Robert	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	18	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Patching
90	Kinchett, James	Prisoner	M	Widower	65	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Washington
91	Nicholls, William	Prisoner	M	Married	25	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Warninghurst
92	Damper, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	18	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Rotherfield
93	Delves, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	18	Porter	Sussex, Lewis
94	Hog, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Married	35	(indecipherable)	(indecipherable)
95	Toomey, Charles	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	28	Agricultural labourer	Warwickshire, Coventry
96	Edwards, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Married	32	Servant	London, Westminster St. James
97	Pannell, James	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	19	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Burwash
98	Pannell, John	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	17	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Burwash
99	Jones, James	Prisoner	M	Married	35	Confectioner	Worcester
100	Fourle, Henry	Prisoner	M	Married	38	Bricklayer	Sussex, Horsham
101	Nicholls, John B	Prisoner	M	Married	18	Cook	Essex, Rockford
102	Jones, Stephen	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	19	Butcher	Sussex, Lawton
103	Hawson, William R	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	37	Sawyer	Sussex, (indecipherable)
104	Gates, William	Prisoner	M	Married	34	Blacksmith	Sussex, Hastings
105	Adams, Frederick	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	17	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Newhaven
106	Wicks, Charles	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	18	Blacksmith	Sussex, Brighton

Ref	Name	Standing	Sex	Condition	Age	Profession	Place of birth
107	Foard, John	Prisoner	M	Married	36	Shoemaker	Sussex, Keymer
108	Walden, John	Prisoner	M	Married	31	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Shermondbury
109	Whitney, James	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	14	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Brighton
110	Lancer, Thomas	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	26	Agricultural labourer	Surrey, Croydon
111	Wicks, Henry	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	36	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Sumpting
112	Bashford, Josiah	Prisoner	M	Married	27	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Sumpting
113	Barratt, William	Prisoner	M	Married	27	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, (indecipherable)
114	Walker, John	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	17	Agricultural labourer	Surrey, Clapham
115	Sharp, William K	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	25	Carpenter	Sussex, Brighton
116	Edwards, James	Prisoner	M	Married	58	Bricklayer	Sussex, Hartfield
117	Allcome, William	Prisoner	M	Married	36	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Rotherfield
118	Bintick, Francis	Prisoner	M	Married	32	Servant	Suffolk, (indecipherable)
119	Howgate, Samuel	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	28	Hammerman	Yorkshire, Leeds
120	Hamson, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	28	Brickmaker	Hampshire, (indecipherable)
121	Eatherington, Henry	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	21	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Wisborough Green
122	West, William	Prisoner	M	Married	24	Wheelwright	Sussex, West Tarring
123	Hawkins, Joseph	Prisoner	M	Married	52	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Broadwater
124	Huncher, Charles	Prisoner	M	Married	52	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Worthing
125	Gruntick, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	28	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Harting
126	Jones, John	Prisoner	M	Married	52	Shoemaker	Sussex, Graffham
127	Holling, George	Prisoner	M	Married	29	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Felpham
128	Bescot, Luke	Prisoner	M	Married	36	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Rackham
129	Fuller, Charle Davis	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	17	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Washington
130	Caleb	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	16	Agricultural labourer	Kent, (indecipherable)
131	Tupper, Sarah	Prisoner	F	Married	40	Charwoman	Sussex, Halstead
132	Boswell, Ann	Prisoner	F	Unmarried	17	Servant	Sussex, Cocking
133	Borwick, Frances	Prisoner	F	Unmarried	17	Servant	Sussex, Cocking
134	Horther, George	Prisoner	M	Widower	38	Agricultural labourer	Surrey, Chiddingfold
135	Cheeseman, John	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	19	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Northiam
136	Hall, George	Prisoner	M	Married	47	Shoemaker	Sussex, Chichester
137	Weller, George	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	27	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Rusper
138	Eade, Henry	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	32	Shoemaker	Sussex, (indecipherable)
139	Greenfield, Francis	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	18	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Pulborough
140	Ledbetter, Edward	Prisoner	M	Unmarried	17	Agricultural labourer	Sussex, Pulborough
141	Tupper, Emily		F		7m	Child with mother	Sussex, Cocking
142	Castle, (indecipherable)				5m	Child with mother	Surrey, Esher

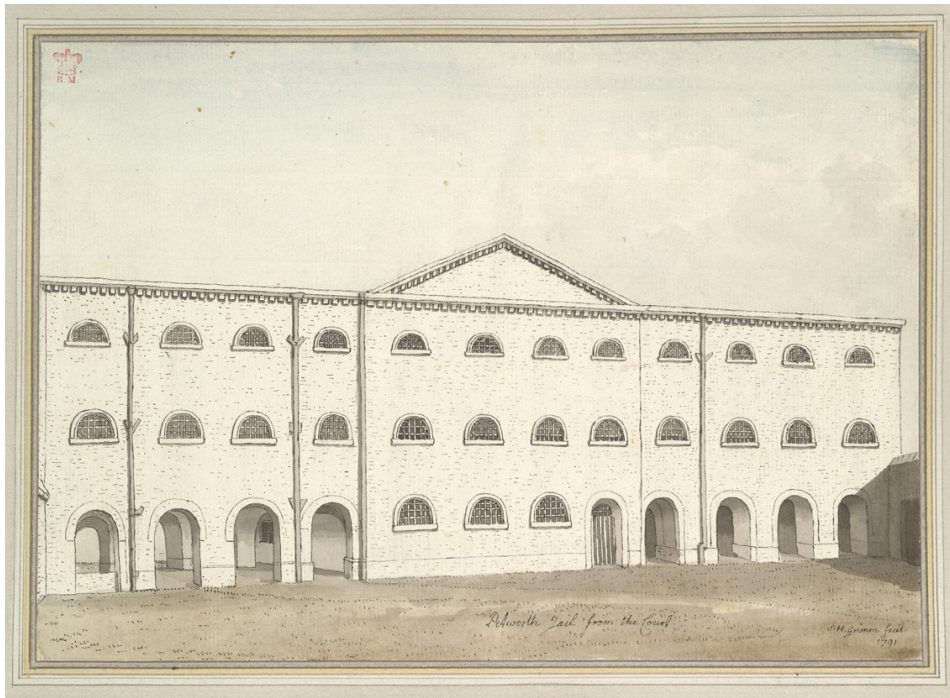
**BELOW**

Samuel Hieronymous Grimm, *The Former Gaol, or 'Correction House' as it was termed, at Petworth drawn from the Inside Courtyard*, 1791, watercolour, 21.6 x 33 cm. Between 1780 and 1791 Grimm spent two weeks from every Whitsun making views in Sussex for the antiquary William Burrell. Almost 900 drawings were bequeathed to the British Library in 1796 where they remain.

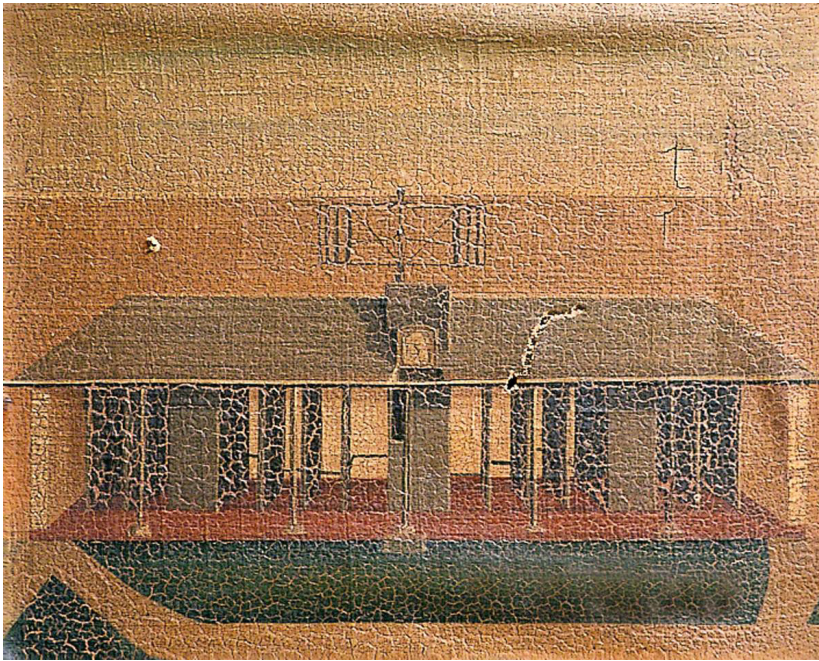
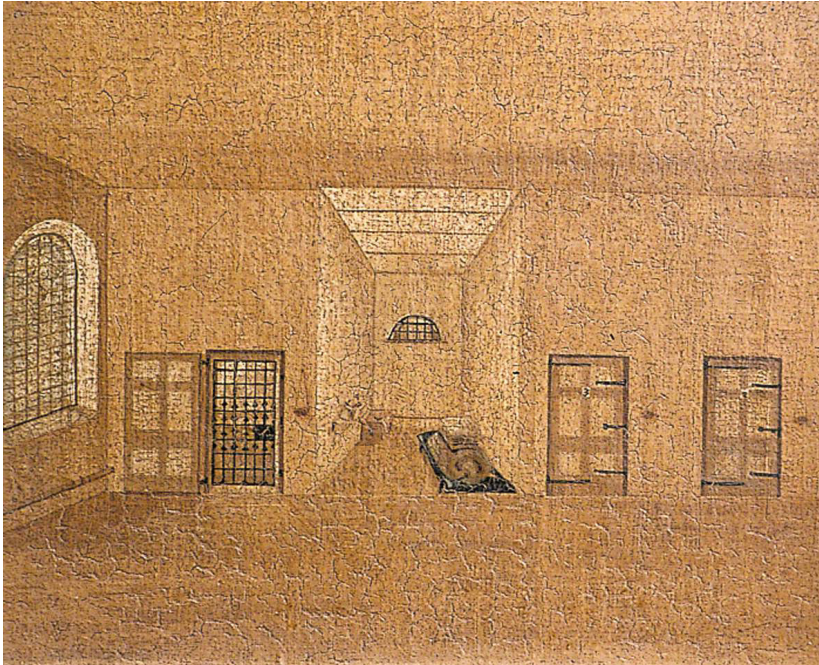
© British Library.

**OPPOSITE**

Two paintings each in a poor state of repair by an unknown artist which currently hang in the Petworth Cottage Museum, just down the road from where the gaol formerly stood. Both were painted probably in the 1860s, both are oil on canvas and measure 27.5 x 32 cm. *The Interior of Petworth Gaol*, (above) and *The Exterior of Petworth Gaol, Possibly of the Treadmill or 'Crankhouse'* (below).









# From Pikeshoot to Switzerland

Jonathan Newdick



**OPPOSITE** The oak trunk before being transported to Alison Crowther's studio near Rogate.

**BELOW** Alison at work on a previous commission in her studio. Photograph by Russell Sach for *The Telegraph*.

In the spring of this year a large oak tree was felled at Pikeshoot by the River Rother, its trunk dragged across the field and left at the side of Rotherbridge Lane to the south of Petworth. It was destined for the studio of wood-carver Alison Crowther near Rogate who would carve it into two spheres, each more than a metre in diameter. They are destined for a site in Switzerland.

Over the last twenty years Alison has produced significant, site-specific works for international, corporate clients such as Swire Properties in Hong Kong, the Sheraton Hotel at Ghuangzhou, China and the Shangri-La Hotel's





iconic Ting restaurant at the Shard in London. She has also undertaken many private commissions throughout Europe and the USA, including Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island.

In subsequent issues of this magazine and with Alison's enthusiastic co-operation we will be following the progress of this piece of Leconfield Estate oak as it is transformed from tree to sculpture.



**OPPOSITE** Alison allows the wood to speak to her to determine the best approach, but she also makes plans in chalk on a grey-painted wall of her studio. She begins her work with chainsaws, gradually using smaller tools until finishing with the finest of chisels.

**BELOW** The Leconfield Estate oak trunk is now sawn into four pieces, one of which then begins to be formed into a sphere. The plywood semi-circular template which can revolve around the whole sphere ensures a perfect symmetry.





# An ancient-tree walk in Petworth Park

Gerald Gresham-Cooke

This circular walk of about 2.5 miles takes in over fifty of the ancient trees on the western side of Petworth Park. An ancient tree is a tree which has reached the last third of its overall lifespan. Most trees never get this far. An ancient yew might be 800-years old, an oak anything over 600, and a birch anything over eighty. Here, they will be mostly oaks and sweet chestnuts, suiting the deer very well as they enjoy the mast (acorns) from them. Other trees are beech, lime, birch and maple.

Head for the Horse Guards Inn on Upperton Road, Tillington GU28 9AF, parking roadside. Take the church path opposite the pub, and rounding the south side of the church, follow the tarmac path to the Park wall, where six steps lead down on to the path by the wall. Follow to the main road and continuing with the wall on the left for 300 yards, enter the Park through New Lodges Gate. Take a minute or two to look at the large map of the Park, and catch sight of Petworth House through the trees (much better view later on). We are heading for Upperton Gate, on the left of the map, north of Tillington. Start walking to the left from New Lodges and when the grass path divides, take the right fork. Fifty yards from the top, near a lovely cedar tree on the right, divert to the left across rough ground where there are three very old lime trees. Two of them are by the old entrance to Tillington tunnel. One has fallen down but remains alive with many branches sticking upwards (400 years old); its near neighbour (376 years old) is divided into three trunks.

Return to the original grass path, and turn left at the top on a hard-core track towards Snow Hill. Directly left, off the main track, on the fence line of the Paddocks is an ancient many-branched pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur* – 462 years old). There are also some fine examples of young small-leaved limes (*Tilia cordata*) on your left. The various lime species provide an important source of nectar in early summer in the Park, a resource much in demand as the fallow deer eat most of the herbs in the grassland. Just after this grove, and again on the fence line, is an ancient London plane tree (*Platanus acerifolia*) with a girth of 5.7 metres, approximately 270 years old.

After forty yards further along the track, make a detour to the path on

the right to see the hollow and very old common lime (*Tilia x Europaea*). This is difficult to age as the trunk has fragmented but, with its girth of 7.46 metres it is perhaps is five to six hundred years old and it could continue as a hollow shell for several hundred years. It has been suggested that Grinling Gibbons used this tree for his carvings in the Carved Room of Petworth House in the 1690s, but there is no evidence for this. From here there is an excellent view of the House across Upper Pond.

Returning to the original track, turn right and pass through a grove of beech trees. On the top of the hill, you will pass some ancient sweet chestnuts on your left. Just before the wire enclosure on the left, there are several ancient beech trees – up to 300 years old.

On the left of the track is a small grassy path leading to the previous Snow Hill House – no remains exist (see *Petworth Society Magazine* No.144, June 2011, for a photograph and more on Snow Hill House). As the track falls down, on the opposite side near the bottom of the slope (100 yards), is an old scarlet-red oak (*Quercus coccinea*). Some of its branches have fallen to the ground as this tree lost a major limb in 2015 during high winds. The tree has glossy green deeply-lobed large leaves that turn a brilliant scarlet in autumn, far more reliable in colour than the many red oaks. A further fifty yards further on in the grassland is a red oak (*Quercus rubra*). Both these oaks are North American species.

Continue on the track, and further down, at the end of a row of nettles on the right, are the remains of a tree trunk lying parallel to the track. When I first saw it fifteen years ago, it was healthy and large (a metre high) with the bark peeling. Now, hornets, other insects and deadwood invertebrates and fungi have taken over so that it is practically all gone. Nature is amazing. Biodiversity and ecology are a major part of the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement scheme which the Park supports.

At the end of the enclosure and half-way down the track's slope, you may wish to turn left and walk up the small slope to see the three huge sweet chestnuts – these are five to six hundred years old, have fantastic trunks, and are some of the tallest in the country.

Returning to the track, go straight ahead for 150 yards where there is a wonderful sweet chestnut trunk with warped/patterned bark. Nobody knows why it twists so much, presuming the wind has such an affect. Seventy-five yards inside the Park grassland, there is an oak with a lot of epicormic growths (a response to damage or stress) on the trunk making the girth difficult to measure, but it is probably around 850 years old. This is one of the Park's three very ancient English oaks.

Retrace your steps to find the first path off towards Upperton Gate on your right. The walk up gets steeper and muddier (if wet) near the gate. Go through the two gates and up into the hamlet of Upperton. Turn left, following the Park wall, passing Tillington cricket ground, with its wonderful view of the South Downs.

The famous All Hallows Tower will begin to come into view and your car will be awaiting you.

#### MAP REFERENCES BY NUMBERS

- 1** Fallen lime tree with branches sticking upwards.
- 2** Nearby lime tree with three trunks.
- 3** On the fence line with The Paddocks, an ancient pedunculate oak.
- 4** Also on the fence, an ancient London plane.
- 5** Old lime tree (Grinling Gibbons?).
- 6** Old scarlet-red oak (*Quercus coccinea*), many branches fallen to the ground.
- 7** Fifty yards further inside the Park is a red oak (*Quercus rubra*).
- 8** Just before the enclosure, there is an ancient beech tree – 300 years old.
- 9, 10, 11** At the end of the enclosure and half-way down the hill, three huge sweet chestnuts. These are five to six hundred years old with fantastic trunks and are some of the tallest in the country.
- 12** Detour by going straight ahead where there is a wonderful sweet chestnut trunk with warped and patterned bark.
- 13** 100 yards into the park is another of the Park's three very ancient English oaks and the author's favourite. This tree has a lot of epicormic growths on the trunk.

