

No.198. March 2025

THE PETWORTH SOCIETY
magazine

No.198. March 2025



THE PETWORTH SOCIETY *magazine*

No.198. March 2025



Henry Streeter was a dominant figure in Petworth from the end of the nineteenth century into the 1920s. His business empire included offering for hire a variety of horse-drawn vehicles, including this station bus that plied its trade between Petworth and the station, and the Railway Inn. These aspects of his business activities are drawn together in this early George Garland photograph. See 'Changing times and changing signs' and 'The personal life of a Petworth businessman' on pages 22 and 28.

FRONT AND BACK COVERS

J. M. W. Turner. *Petworth, Sussex, the seat of the Third Earl of Egremont: Dewy Morning*. (Detail).

© Tate, 2025. See Picture Note on page 35.

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.

PRESIDENT

Peter Jerrome, MBE.

CHAIRMAN

Mike Mulcahy, Westbury, High Street,
Petworth GU28 0AU. 01798 345160.
mike@themulcahys.org

HON TREASURER

Phil Stephens, The Old Meeting House,
22 Pound Street, Petworth GU28 0DX.
01798 342016. philstephens61@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mike Mulcahy (as above).

TRUSTEES

Lord Egremont, Mike Mulcahy, Alexandra Soskin,
Phil Stephens, Nick Wheeler.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mike Mulcahy, Ron Parsons, Beverley Sewell.
Mike Singleton, Phil Stephens and Ian Yonge.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Andrew Loukes,
c/o Petworth House GU28 0AE.
andy.loukes@leconfieldestates.co.uk

Designed, typeset and produced by
Jonathan Newdick and printed in Chichester
by SRP Design and Print Ltd.

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

Claudia Golden, Jane Henderson, Tim Marchant-
Lane, Elly and Mike Mulcahy, Ron Parsons,
Sarah Singleton, Phil Stephens and Pat and Pete
Turland (Petworth); Alexandra Soskin (Byworth);
David Burden (Duncton); Gerald Gresham-Cooke
(Tillington and Upperton); Ted Liddle (Midhurst)
and Carol Twite (Fittleworth).

WEBSITE www.petworthsociety.co.uk

EMAIL info@petworthsociety.co.uk

SOCIETY TOWN CRIER

Nigel Flynn. (01798) 343558.

BANK

NatWest Bank
Sort Code 60-16-27
Account No. 89087186.

The Petworth Society supports the
Leconfield Hall, Petworth Cottage Museum,
the Coultershaw Beam Pump and Petworth St
Edmund's Day Fair.

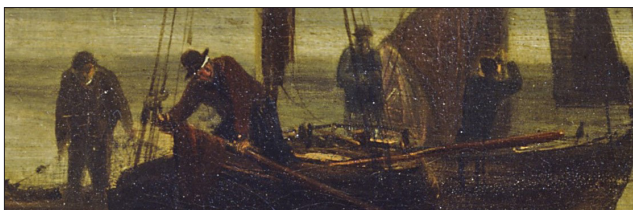
Published by The Petworth Society. Registered charity number 268071. For members, the Petworth Society (the Society) holds your personal contact and associated details as a digital record. The information is required for the operation of the Society and for no other purpose. The information will not be shared with any third parties, other than HMRC in respect of any Gift Aid claim, without your express approval. Should you cease to be a member of the Society and, following the 'statutory period' of two years, the information will be removed from our records. For further information on the Society's Privacy and Data Protection Policies please contact the Treasurer.

CONTENTS

	The Petworth Society	2
	Chairman's notes	4
	Editorial	5
Yvette Cook	Two pewter chamber potts in the kitchen	
	Early years at Westlands and Medhone farms	6
Ian Yonge	The November talk	
	John Riddell on life at Keyfox Farm	17
Jumbo Taylor	The derelict swimming pool in the Park	18
Tony Sneller	Changing times and changing signs	
	The story of a local inn	22



Steven Elliott	The personal life of a Petworth businessman	
	Henry Streeter (1853-1936)	28
Andrew Loukes	Picture note	
	J. M. W. Turner. <i>Dewy Morning</i> , 1810.	35



Jonathan Newdick	Who made the film and who is the child?	
	The Pulborough to Midhurst railway in the 1950s	38
Andrew Howard	Moderate refreshment on stipulated terms	
	The General Election of 1926	40
Tony Sneller	The Coultershaw Collection	48

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Mike Mulcahy

I must commence with a hearty if somewhat belated Happy New Year to all our members. I am writing this on a rather 'grey day', having seen the town decorations and the Christmas tree recently taken down. The festive season was somewhat plagued with variable weather that impacted on many events including the town's Christmas Cracker that had to be cancelled at the last minute.

The forum arranged to discuss the future of the St Edmund's Fair was well attended by local people, local organisations and even a national representative of the Showmen Historic Society, who emphasised the significance of the Fair to the showmen community.

Having said that, both the future of the Fair and the United Reform Church appear in flux at present and we hope that solutions can be reached swiftly. We also have news of some planned renovations and improvements to the Leconfield Hall; as welcome as this is, it could lead to some temporary disruption of future events.

We started our winter evenings in November with an almost full house to hear John Riddell on local farming and the changes he has seen over the years (see page 17). In January Miles Costello covered 'a tour of old Petworth Town' to a full house, when we were given a chance to see the Facebook site 'Petworth Past' in person with Miles and many of the audience's own recollections.

All these, and we still have an event on the Petworth Railway and one on the Petworth House of Correction in February and March respectively which we hope to report on in the June issue.

In April we will have our AGM, and now that we have lodged our new constitution with the Charity Commission – subject to the changes suggested and after approval from our Trustees – the event might be straightforward. To entertain us Ian Yonge will give a presentation on 'The History of the Park'.

It only remains for me to highlight the fact that your subscription for 2025 to 2026 is now due. We are pleased to report that we will hold the membership fees at their present level but do note the new bank details.

EDITORIAL

Andrew Loukes

Late last year I was pleased to receive the letter below which launches the *PSM* into 2025. Correspondence is always welcome and it is particularly heartwarming to get it from as far away as Cumbria. Additionally, Jeremy Godwin's observations on the Petworth Park stew ponds have prompted the publication of Jumbo Taylor's notes on the adjacent Bath House, now demolished, and a related picture note exploring J. M. W. Turner's famous painting of Petworth House from the lake. This item also marks the 250th anniversary of the great artist's birth.

Elsewhere, Yvette Cook investigates the Sopp family's occupation of the neighbouring Westlands and Medhone farms on the eastern outskirts of Petworth during the eighteenth century, illustrating just how microcosmic rural life could be. Slightly later in history, the General Election of 1826 is the subject of a series of snapshots extrapolated by Andrew Howard from the letters of the third Earl of Egremont's Agent William Tyler. Here is gripping local evidence of the breathtakingly open levels of intimidation and corruption which shaped the nation's electoral process before the Reform Act of 1832.

Finally, we have two interrelated articles from Steven Elliott and Tony Sneller which bring to life one of the central figures of early twentieth-century Petworth, Henry Streeter. He emerges not only as an extraordinary entrepreneur at the heart of town life but also a consistently resilient character when faced with moments of considerable personal sadness.

Dear Andrew,

While my parents lived at Upperton (1980-2006), the stew ponds were restored to vitality, across the lake on the Tillington side. I wondered what exactly they were for. Now I know, from recent fieldwork's research here near Penrith, they are the Refining Ponds for the House's fishpond, the lake. When a fish was wanted for eating, it would be caught in the lake

and transferred alive to the stew ponds for a week or so, where the clear spring water would rid it of its flavour of mud, pondweed, &c. Only the Lord of the Manor could have this amenity, much in use. The Lake is comparatively recent, but old practices continue.

Yours,
Jeremy Godwin,
Penrith, Cumbria.

Two pewter chamber potts in the kitchen

Early years with the Sopp family at Westlands and Medhone farms.

Yvette Cook

In *PSMs* 53 and 54 (September and December 1988) there are two articles titled 'At old Westlands' which describe life at Westlands Farm off Blackhouse Lane near Fox Hill in the early twentieth century. These notes on the Sopp family at Westlands and nearby Medhone farms concern far earlier times.

The Sopp family is recorded in Slindon as far back as 1320 but in the middle of the seventeenth century a Robert Sopp moved over the downs to a farm near Petworth, taking with him his wife and young son. It is likely that in Slindon the Sopps had long been tenants of the Earls of Arundel and the new tenancy was at Medhone Farm, which had once been a deer park belonging to King Henry VIII but was granted by Queen Mary to the Earl of Arundel in 1581. By the mid-seventeenth century it had become a farm, but the house might have originated as a hunting lodge. The name (with the accent as, for instance, in Kirdford and Bedham on the second syllable) is thought to mean 'boundary stone' as the farm borders the neighbouring parish of Kirdford.

At Medhone Farm Robert Sopp styled himself as a yeoman and the farm had a large acreage. He prospered, and at the time of his death in 1696 he had goods to the value of £430. The tax inventory taken at the time of his death is detailed, including two chamber 'potts' in the kitchen. On Robert's death the tenancy was taken over by his son Thomas, until his death in 1747 aged 75. There are few details of his time there as life at Medhone must have been somewhat reclusive. We do know, though, that he married and had children – mostly girls, with one son who predeceased him and a surviving son, another Robert. The girls seem to have been relatively old at the time of their marriages, which was unusual, as farmers' daughters with their skills would normally have been good catches locally – a reflection on the reclusiveness of Medhone perhaps. Thomas described himself as 'husbandman' whereas his prosperous second cousin at Slindon was a 'gentleman'. In Slindon the tax inventory showed lavish furnishings, looking glasses and tea sets from China (or of china) complete with a tea table, but life at Medhone would have been very different.

On the death of Thomas's wife Sarah in 1742 there were no women in the house except, possibly, a live-in servant, and in 1743 his son Robert married Elizabeth Nash from Midhurst. All his sisters had at last married and left home,

and a wife was needed to run the house. She would have been about eighteen when she married and will have found herself in a household of what seemed much older men – her father-in-law must have been well into his seventies, perhaps suffering from age-related illness, and the others were almost double her own age. A daunting prospect as the men must have been very set in their ways. Presumably Elizabeth gradually found her place in the household, and she lived a long life, dying the age of 76. She is buried at Kirdford.

In his will of 1745 Thomas describes himself as ‘aged and infirm’ and he makes his son Robert his sole heir:

I THOMAS SOPP in the parish of Petworth in the County of Sussex Husbandman being aged and infirm but of Sound and Disposing Mind Memory and Understanding Thanks be given to Almighty God for the same do make and Declare this to be my last Will and Testament in manner and form following That is to say First and principally I give and bequeath to my Son Robert Sopp his Executors and Administrators All and singular my Goods Chattels Rights Creditts and Personal Estate whatsoever subject nevertheless and Charged with the Payment of my debts and funeral Expenses and Do hereby make Ordain Constitute and Appoint my said Son Robert Sopp Sole and only Executor of this my last will and Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and Seal this Fourteenth day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Five Thomas Sopp his mark Signed Sealed Published and Declared to be the last Will and Testament of the above named Thomas Sopp the Testator In the Presence of us who In his Presence have hereunto Subscribed our names as Witnesses Ann Christmas X her mark Thomas Martin.

THIS WILL was proved before the reverend Mr. Joh [han?] Clerk Surrogate the Thirty first Day of January In the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Four By the Oath of Robert Sopp natural and lawful Son of the said deceased and Executor above named.

There are several things to note here apart from the clerk’s lack of punctuation and his fondness for capital letters. Firstly, Thomas made the will in 1745; he died in 1747, but the will was not proved until 1754. A gap of seven years seems a very long time. Secondly, Thomas calls himself ‘husbandman’ and not ‘yeoman’ as his father had done. It was the same farm and Robert had

Continued on page 12

BELOW The 1696 tax inventory of Robert Sopp af Medhone (Meadhone) Farm. The pages are extremely worn and many passages are impossible to read. The individual valuations are also difficult to decipher although the sum total of £430 is clear. The inclusion of a 'welbuckett' in the brewhouse suggests an internal well. Inconsistencies of spelling and punctuation are true to the original.

AN INVENTORIE

of all the goods and chattells of Robert Sopp of Meadhone in the parish of Petworth in the county of Sussex yeoman deceased taken and appraised the ninth day of February one thousand six hundred ninety and six by William Fielder and Benjamin Sandham as followeth.

Imprimis. His wearing apparrell and money in his purse.

In the chamber over the hall

Item one feather bed two feather bolsters one feather pillow one redd rugg two blanketts curtins and vallance bedstead matt and cords a [?] two chests one trunke [?] one pewter [?] two pewter dishes a fire pan [?] a paire of tongs.

In the chamber over the kitchen

Item fifteen pairs of sheetes two dozen of napkins and other table linnen.

Item one feather bedd two fether bolsters two feather pillowes a coverlett, two blanketts curtins and vallance, bedstedle, matt and cords fower chests one trunke two boxes and a round table.

In the chamber over the greate buttery

Item one fetherbed one fether pillow, two bolsters a bedd-stedle matt and cords.

In the Garret over the kitchen chamber

Item a parcell of wooll.

In the chamber over the little buttery

Item two flock bedds, three fether boulsters, one coverlett, fower blanketts, one stedle bedd, one Trundle bedd matts and cords and one chest.

In the chambers over the milke house

Item sundry stuffe.

In the kitchen

Item fower brassekettles, five little bell brass potts, fower skilletts, one brasse skimmer one brass ladle, a warming pann a bras mortar, thirty pewter dishes, a doxen pewter plates three pewter porringers three pewter salts, two pewter chamber potts three iron potts two iron kettles one iron dripping pann, two iron chevers [?] three spitts, six iron [?] smoothing irons [?] the iron to warm beer on a jack, pair of andirons a fire pann and tongs a [?] pair ot gridirons [?] larding peece three firing [?] panns, a hanging cupboard a table fower [?] and a dresser.

In the hall

Item a long table six joynt stooles, a forme, a little table a cupboard a pair of andirons fire pann and tongs.

In one of the Butteries

Item a querne six kilderkins one firquine, one stand five kivers and a bucking tubb.

In the other Buttery

Item three kilderkins a stand and twelve glasse bottles.

In the Bakehouse

Item a salting trough, a cheese presse, a baking kiver a meale tubb and fower sserchers [?].

In the milkehouse

Item twenty milke trayes thirty sheeses, two churns and the shelves.

In the Brewhouse

Item a brass furnis a vat, a tunning [?] tubb, a renning [?] tubb, fower bucketts a welbuckett chayne and rope.

Outdoor

Item six flitches of bacon. Item two fat hoggs to kill. Item seven stoare hoggs. Item a sow, and fower piggs. Item six workeing oxen. Item nine coves and a Bull. Item six young beast. Item three weaniar calves. Item six working horses. Item three colts. Item one and twenty ewes nineteen lambs. Item wheate unthrashed. Item oates unthrashed. Item one load of ryeoats [?] unthrashed. Item oates unthrashed. Item five quarters [?] thrashed. Item twelve bushells of pease. Item twenty load of hay. Item twenty acres of wheate sowed. Item two wagons. Item two dung potts. Item one timber carriage. Item two plowes. Item fower smale harrowes. Item six pairs of horse harnis, six yoakes, fower chaines, a fagg and twenty sacks. Item a ginn and rope. Item a bushell a half bushell lines prongs and other husbandry tackle. Item [?].

Sum total of the inventory £430

Glossary

Andirons. A pair of iron bars with hooked brackets for supporting a roasting spit.

Bushel. A container for measuring grain.

Bucking Tub. A washing tub.

Dripping pan. A pan placed under the meat on the spit to catch the fat.

Firkin. A quarter barrel measure.

Flitch. A side of bacon.

Flock bed. A bed stuffed with wool and scraps of cloth.

Gridiron. A grid placed on or near the fire and suspended on andirons or supported on legs for roasting or toasting.

Keeler. A shallow tub used for cooling.

Kilderkin. A cask.

Kimmel. A trough used for kneading dough and salting meat as well as being used in the brewhouse.

Kiver. A large shallow tub.

Kettle. A deep cooking vessel.

Mat and cords. A network of cords attached to the bed frame and overlaid with a rush mat to support the mattress.

Milkehouse. The dairy.

Skillet. A small iron pot with a handle and three legs placed at the front of the hearth.

Skimmer. A sort of ladle used for removing the cream from milk.

Truckle and Trundle beds. Spare beds stored under the main bed, often on wheels.





Some Sopp family photographs of Medhone and Westlands taken in the 1970s and 80s, long after the family had left. Opposite above: the pair of nineteenth-century cottages at Medhone. The photograph is inscribed on the back 'derelict 1987.' The farmhouse at Medhone was dismantled, presumably in the twentieth century, as it is clearly marked on the 1897 25-inch O.S. map.

Opposite below: a montage of Westlands from two photographs taken from slightly different angles. According to Historic England the house dates from the seventeenth century or earlier. The timber-framing at the left would seem to agree with this and it is clear that the house was added to in several stages over the years. Left above: the brick path and front porch (a nineteenth-century addition) of Westlands. Left below: the tile-hung gable end of Westlands which forms the end wall on the left of the photograph opposite below. It is likely that these and the photograph on page 16 are among the last photographs taken at Westlands before it was transformed into the upgraded house that it is today, after being sold by the Leconfield Estate in 1976.



not been exaggerating his status so why had Thomas taken a step down? There is no inventory to tell us any more about his lifestyle or the value of his estate, but he can't have been poor, and the impression is that he was someone who kept himself to himself. Of the witnesses, Thomas Martin is unknown, although he is known to have signed other local wills, and Ann Christmas who made her mark probably came from nearby Ratford Farm. Sopps and Christmases often intermarried.

There is no helpful tax inventory taken at the time of Thomas's death and while there must have been a change of tenancy agreement that seems all. Thomas appears to have left everything to his son Robert with no gifts to grandchildren or friends, although his daughters would already have had their share on marriage.

A set of documents held in the West Sussex Record Office (EP1/15/1212) relate to the effort of one James Brown to get from Robert Sopp money that had been owed to him by Robert's father, Thomas. It seems that Thomas had borrowed £15 (close, with interest, to £4,500 today) from James Brown with a promissory note to return the money with interest, but by the time of his death in 1747 it remained unpaid. After many attempts to get his money back Brown eventually resorted to employing a solicitor and as a last resort took the matter to the Diocesan Consistory Court. On December 17, 1753, seven years after Thomas's death, he took out a citation against:

Robert Sopp, Sarah Mitchell the wife of Arthur Mitchell of Petworth, shoemaker, Ann Chitty the wife of John Chitty of Kirdford, farmer and Susannah Hampton the wife of Frank Hampton of Egdean, yeoman – the natural and lawful son and daughters of Thomas Sopp farmer of Petworth, deceased, and possessed of all his goods, chattels, and credits.

They were called upon to:

Exhibit and leave in the registry of the Bishop of Chichester the true original Will and Testament of Thomas Sopp, if he made any, and if any of them were named as executors to accept or refuse the administration. If he died intestate to accept administration or to show good cause, if they had any, or otherwise to hand all over to James Brown the principal creditor of the deceased.

They were also required to provide the tax inventory which should have been drawn up on the death of Thomas, if such inventory was ever made. It would

seem that the will was finally produced, and the officer of the court demanded that Robert, as executor, should appear in court on February 1, 1754, but he simply didn't turn up. Eventually he was threatened with a Mandate for Excommunication if he didn't make an appearance. Brown's solicitor thought that he could get the offending debt paid without the mandate being read out but by 1759 the debt with its accrued interest still hadn't been paid. James Brown was at his wits' end as to how to get the money owed to him but by August of that year it was ruled that as the mandate had been addressed to the vicar who had now died it was no longer valid.

What was going on? There was a will, and it was finally proved but where had it been all this time? Robert was clearly being deliberately difficult, but why? Who was James Brown, did he ever get his money and why did Thomas need to borrow such a large sum in the first place? Perhaps the only logical, if shameful conclusion was that the inhabitants of Medhone in the far corner of the parish of Petworth lived in their own little world and were not going to be told how to behave – although poor James Brown had a perfect right to his £15.

Robert seems to have been a bit more switched on than his father and had started gathering other farms in the area for his sons, one of which was Westlands. When he died in 1786 at the age of 77 his sons were all suitably set up except for the youngest who hoped he would be granted the tenancy of Medhone but there had been three generations there and the tenancy lapsed. Robert was buried under a yew tree in Petworth churchyard and has a fine stone in his memory, featuring a grim reaper.

Somewhat later the Duke of Norfolk and the Earl of Egremont wanted to exchange some lands to consolidate their estates – it was suggested that Medhone should go to Egremont, and in 1805 a survey of the farm (spelled 'Meadhone' on the survey) and lands was made. However, this was not as easy as it sounds because the farm had been 'entailed' by Act of Parliament in the reign of Charles I. This meant that it had to pass through the male line of inheritance and could not easily be sold. It was fully protected, and the entail could be broken only by permission of the Law Lords and the Crown. The two landowners along with a gentleman named Mr. Poynting all got together and sorted out an exchange of lands to the mutual benefit of all three. Poynting had farms in Lyminster near Arundel as well as land in Tillington and Lodsworth. Egremont was interested in these last two and also Medhone and he was prepared to lease nearby Moor Farm to Poynting if the general exchange could be arranged. Application was accordingly made to parliament to break the entail on Medhone on condition that the money

OPPOSITE The valuation of Medhone (Madehone) Farm made in 1805. A rood (pronounced rod) is a quarter of an acre and there are 40 perches in a rood. It is not clear why fields 8, 9 and 10 appear unproductive. Spelling and punctuation are true to the original.

raised was re-invested in Poynting's lands at Lyminster. It duly went before the Law Lords and the King and when it was signed and sealed the exchange of lands was set in motion.

All the farms involved in the exchange had to be valued and the results compared. The fields, hedgerows and woods were measured, and the trees counted and valued according to maturity, all of which must have taken some time. The Medhone survey is transcribed opposite where it can be seen that it was a substantial farm of just over 215 acres and, for the first time, we can see that the house was part timber-framed and tiled and part stone and brick under a tiled roof. There were thatched barns and a granary, stables, a wood house and a pigsty, gardens, and an orchard. The fields are named, and their measuring might have given the odd surprise – 'Fourteen Acres' came out at over fifteen and 'Seven Acres' was measured at ten. Every tree was counted: there were 1,146 oaks, four beech and 755 assorted tallows, i.e. young trees. The farmhouse would later be dismantled, and in the nineteenth century a pair of cottages (numbers 275A and 275B) now known as Medhone were built nearby.

In its last years Medhone Farm was let to a Richard Eede on a 21-year lease and the Sopp family were mainly at Westlands. They appear to have prospered although a cousin was claiming poor relief with children in the workhouse.

Westlands was in Sopp hands for the customary three generations, the last being Richard Sopp (1790-1868) and from then on the Sopps were agricultural labourers, often in the employ of the Leconfield Estate, or as gamekeepers or bailiffs. It was in Richard's time at Westlands that we find the story of Edmund Sopp (1823-71) a first-class cricketer who played for Sussex and whose last match was against the M.C.C. at Lord's in June 1847. He was back working at Westlands out of the cricket season.

In the late nineteenth century, although now no longer at Westlands, the Sopp family retained connections with Medhone with Richard Sopp's grandson William (1841-1910) appearing variously in records as an agricultural labourer and hoop-shaver (for barrels) and by 1881 he is recorded as the farm bailiff at Medhone. From about this point the story of Westlands continues in the two previous articles from 1988.

The buildings consist of a large Messuage part of Timber and Tile, part Stone and Brick, Cart House Timber and Thatch, Granary Timber and Tile, two Barns Timber and Thatch, one Hack Stable Thatched, one Cart Stable for 5 Horses Tiled, Wood House & Pigstye.

Value after Land Tax & repairs £3,465

The Land as follows		Acres	Roods	Perches	
1	House, Yard & Garden	1	...	19	
2	Croft by Yard & Garden	3	...	22	Pasture
3	Low Laggs	12	2	26	Arable
	 Wood or Hedgerow	3	...	30	Wood
4	Lime Kiln Field	8	...	16	Arable
	 Wood or Hedgerow	...	...	37	Wood
5	Twelve Acres	12	...	34	Arable
	 Wood or Hedgerow	1	3	6	Wood
6	Seven Acres	7	3	6	Arable
	 Wood or Hedgerow	...	...	37	Wood
7	Eighteen Acres	19	2	30	Arable
8	Twelve Acres	12	1	31	...
9	Fourteen Acres	15	1	15	...
10	Seven Acres	10	...	...	...
	 Wood or Hedgerow	...	1	11	Wood
11	Well Laggs	15	...	...	Arable
	 Wood or Hedgerow	1	1	32	Wood
12	White Field	12	2	22	Furze
	 Wood or Hedgerow	...	...	24	Wood
13	Pollard Field	15	2	19	Arable
	 Wood or Hedgerow	...	2	3	Wood
14	Nine Acres	10	2	33	Arable
15 & 16	Bottoms	3	...	9	Pasture
17	Twenty Acres	23	3	38	Arable
	 Wood or Hedgerow	1	1	29	Wood
18	Town Croft	4	2	35	Arable
19	Madehone Coppice	13	...	10	Wood
		215	...	1	



Westlands from the south-west (above) perhaps in the 1970s, and the pair of nineteenth-century cottages (now a single house) at Medhone seen from the north in 2024.

THE NOVEMBER TALK

John Riddell on changes to local farming over the last 80 years.
Ian Yonge

A near capacity audience of 46 attended a fully illustrated and fascinating talk by former farmer John Riddell who spoke of his experiences of farming 600 acres at Keyfox Farm since 1967 and those of his father before him from 1944, when he moved down from Scotland. We heard of changes in the farm over the years, the different livestock on the land, the change to exclusively arable farming, further changes in farm machinery and diversification projects. All amidst the challenges of trying to make a living from the land. He spoke movingly of the need to protect, nourish and love the land, seen below looking to the west from the farmyard.

On a broader horizon John talked of the disconnect even country dwellers have with the surrounding countryside as the habits of urbanisation creep into the rural community. This has been exacerbated by a sharp drop in the number of people working on the land, including John's farm, over the years. There were also some lighter moments as he recounted how one day as a small boy he fell into a barrow of slurry. Picked up at arms' length by a farmhand, he was then dropped inside the back door of the farmhouse. The farmhand promptly beat a quick retreat before John's mother emerged.

Our thanks to John for an illuminating talk on a journey through 80 years of change in how the land is worked and changes in life on a family farm. His talk was much enjoyed, judging by the lively questions and answers which followed.



The derelict swimming pool in the Park

Notes dated December 14, 1988 by Jumbo Taylor, introduced by the Editor

In his article ‘New “stews” for old’, *PSM* 16 (January 1979), the late Jumbo Taylor – longstanding Head of the Water Department for the Leconfield Estate – explained the history and methodology of stew ponds, used for the cleansing and farming of edible fish. Jumbo traces the practice back to the sixteenth century and gives several local examples, including those on the Tillington side of the Upper Pond in Petworth Park. Earlier, ‘More Questions’ in *PSM* 2 (August 1974) had asked ‘Does anyone know anything about the derelict swimming pool in The Copse in The Park on the opposite side of the lake from the boathouse?’ The question was partially answered in *PSM* 3 (December 1974): ‘The “swimming pool” in the copse in the Park above and West of the Lake, now surrounded by an iron railing, was a medicinal bath dating from Georgian times. The ruins of the bath-house still stand, but no record of the date of its erection has come to light.’

We may now say with certainty that the Bath House, designed for plunging rather than swimming, was built adjacent to the stew ponds for the third Earl of Egremont around 1806, when there is a record in the workmen’s book of ‘Going with the ass team & filling carts with soil at the Bath House by the stews’ on November 15 (Petworth House Archives No. 2246). This building took its place among several other of the third Earl’s fashionably picturesque additions to Capability Brown’s purer arcadian landscape of some fifty years earlier, which also included the Upperton Monument and the Boathouse (both 1791), along with the stone urns on Lawn Hill and the Upper Pond islands (1816). More specifically, the inclusion of bath houses within landscape parks became relatively commonplace during the eighteenth century and beyond – notable survivals are those at Wynnstay Park (near Wrexham), Corsham Court and Stourhead (both Wiltshire). Set within nature and usually fed by pure spring water, such facilities offered not only palpable health benefits but also cultural associations both classical and primitive.

While its footprint remains, the ruins of the Bath House were taken down between 1974 and 1988, and as no surviving photographs have come to light, Jumbo’s illustrated memories – published verbatim below from his handwritten notes – are particularly valuable. We would welcome any other recollections of this structure and particularly any further visual evidence of its appearance.

These drawings are based on what I can remember of the Bath House. Various details may have been decidedly different, but for the most part, I believe them to be fairly representative, the main exception being the roof style. I am sure the inside was a shallow curved ceiling. The external may well have been as I have shown it or just possibly a simple square low-pitched roof, but the covering was certainly of lead.

WEST WINDOW

This was formed as the building was being constructed, but was later filled and faced with matching stonework.

EAST WINDOW

This has always existed as formed and has been visible.

DOOR

As shown probably of pine similar in construction to the side doors (old) of the Boathouse, which opened inwards.

BATH AREA

L-shaped, depth (unsure) but I believe similar to that as shown, sides in either blue or white or white and blue square tiles, with significant blue scroll inches above water level can be seen. If exposed, much like a cornice.

FLOOR

Paved in slab stone, probably York, but could be Purbeck (or composite).

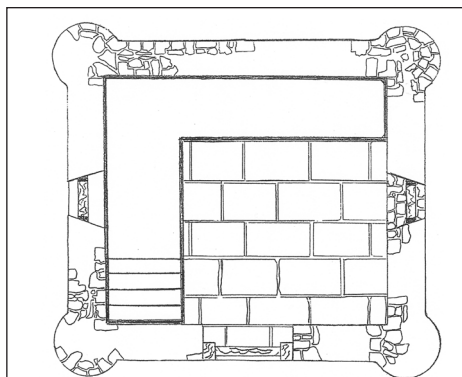
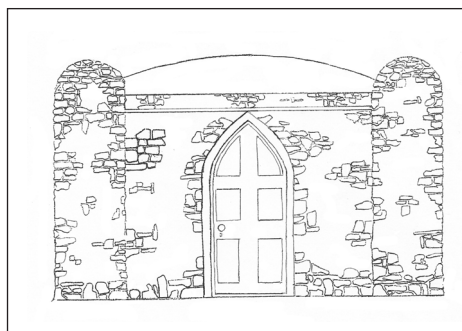
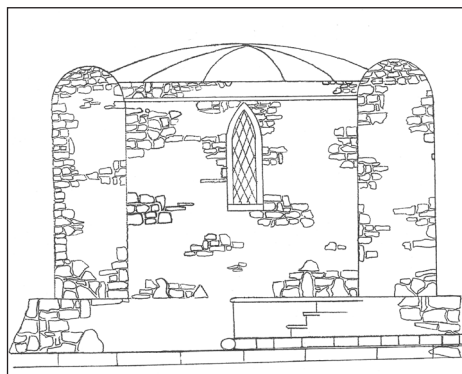
DECORATION

Walls and ceiling of plaster and various colour washes, the last one being Pinkish.

PAINT

Stone colour.

BELOW From top to bottom: the west elevation, the south elevation and the plan of the building which show the Gothic, almost ecclesiastical style of architecture. These are after Jumbo Taylor's drawings which in turn were copied from the originals in Petworth House Archives.



BELOW The stews with the site of the Bath House under the trees beyond.

WATER SUPPLY

From underground cistern in side of hill to the west about 70 feet away approximately. A small pit situated adjacent to the south-west corner of House (20 feet) has one inlet pipe six inches which discharges water from the cistern, and also the old conduit tunnel. Two pipes lead out: one, a six-inch, allows water to pass straight through a pit along the west side of the [Bath] House and round the north west corner to discharge down a stone gully on the north side and into the first pond. The second pipe conveys water into the Bath House.

CONTROL OF BOTH PIPES

Lead sliding door in bottom of pit controls direction of flow of water.

WATER IN THE BATH

It is possible that inlet and outlet are on the same level i.e. high level. In any



BELOW The site of the Bath House looking towards the stews, clearly showing the foundations with the break for the entrance on the right (south) side. Both photographs taken in December 2024.

event, water can, I believe, flow continuously through the bath entering on the west and exiting on the east into a stone gully and into the Pond. There is no doubt a further pipe and plug in the east end to drain and clear the bath. The water itself is pure spring water, of constant temperature, relatively warm during the winter and cold in summer.

The conduit source is referred to as pure and wholesome and of excellent quality in all respects, particularly mineral wise. I have every reason to believe the cistern supply is likewise. In any event, the two come together. I believe the bath was not just used to wash off mud and grime, but primarily to stimulate the body as a whole taking advantage of the purity and mineral content of the water. I suppose basically the old adage of 'Cleanliness being next to Godliness' – with water as pure as this, surely one could not get much closer to the other.



Changing times and changing signs

A story of a local inn. Tony Sneller

One Sunday morning in the mid-1990s builders were knocking down a ramshackle old garage at Northmead just behind the Stonemasons Inn to the north of Petworth. The homeowners came back home from church to find that the men had found an old sign and were about to put it on the bonfire. The owners had seen the back of the sign before and always thought it was some kind of top for a trestle table. Recognising that this sign was important, it was put into the dining room where every bug, beetle and other creepy-crawly emerged thinking spring had arrived. If Andrew and Judy Howard had not arrived home when they did, this sign which was once displayed above the door of The Railway Hotel at Coultershaw may have been lost for good.

The sign was stored for many years by The Leconfield Estate, and more recently in the Coultershaw Granary. It was eventually put on display at Coultershaw in May 2024. The reason for the sign becoming part of a garage at Northmead is partly conjecture as we will see.

The Railway Inn was under construction when Petworth Railway Station opened in 1859. Henry Streeter became the landlord in 1897, having taken over from Sophie Pycroft, and remained at the hotel until 1928. The licence was transferred to Alfred Gee in August that year.

Henry was an entrepreneur and had interests beyond the Railway Hotel. Petworth Station is a mile and a half from the town and Henry Streeter enterprisingly ran a horse-drawn bus from the Market Square to the hotel and the station. The horse-drawn bus was originally run by Mr Charles Dempster who became landlord at the Railway Hotel when it opened. Dempster's charge for the ride between the station and Petworth was a rather steep *6d*.

As can be seen from the rescued sign, Henry did much more than run the station service and the sign lists his range of horse-drawn vehicles. These would have been the taxi service of the day and provided transport for those who were unable to have their own stable and coach house.

Henry also had a yard and stables in Norman Mews in East Street, Petworth, and these premises had a similar sign advertising the services he offered.

The importance of Henry's services to people can be seen in the invoice

BELOW Henry Streeter's sign mounted proudly above the door of the Railway Hotel in about 1920 as charabancs return from Goodwood races. The white panel to the right of the ground-floor window is a London, Brighton & South Coast Railway timetable.

to Miss Blagden dated October 14, 1898 reproduced on page 27. Her life would have been more difficult, and undoubtedly less enjoyable, if she had not been able to make these journeys to a variety of places around Petworth. On July 16 she simply took a 'Fly for drive' at a cost of two and sixpence – on September 10 she was taken to 'Fittleworth, round by Coates, Station and home' which cost her seven and sixpence. The invoice covers a period from July to October, a longish period of five months which wouldn't have helped Henry's cash flow.

In November 1927 Messrs Streeter and Co., as they were now called, gave directions for an extensive auction that included two horse-drawn hearses. The reason given for the sale was that they were 'replacing Horses with Motors'. This was just nine months before Henry gave up the Railway Hotel and moved to the Isle of Wight.

Whether the sign was removed immediately after the auction when





The sign which is now on display at Coultershaw. It reads 'Fly proprietor, livery & bait stables, open & close carriages & pony carriages'.

OPPOSITE By the early 1950s Henry Streeter's sign had been replaced by the rather incongruous 'Somerset Cider', and the charabancs had become motor coaches; these are probably on their way to Goodwood races, resting before the long grind up Duncton Hill.

BELOW An early twentieth-century advertisement for the Railway Inn. Streeter has clearly instructed that his name above the door and the lettering on the sign should be highlighted in white. It was presumably an oversight that the sign says 'Railway Hotel', while the type reads 'Railway Hotel'.



Railway Hotel, =

PETWORTH.

Luncheons Daily.

Excellent . . .
Accommodation.

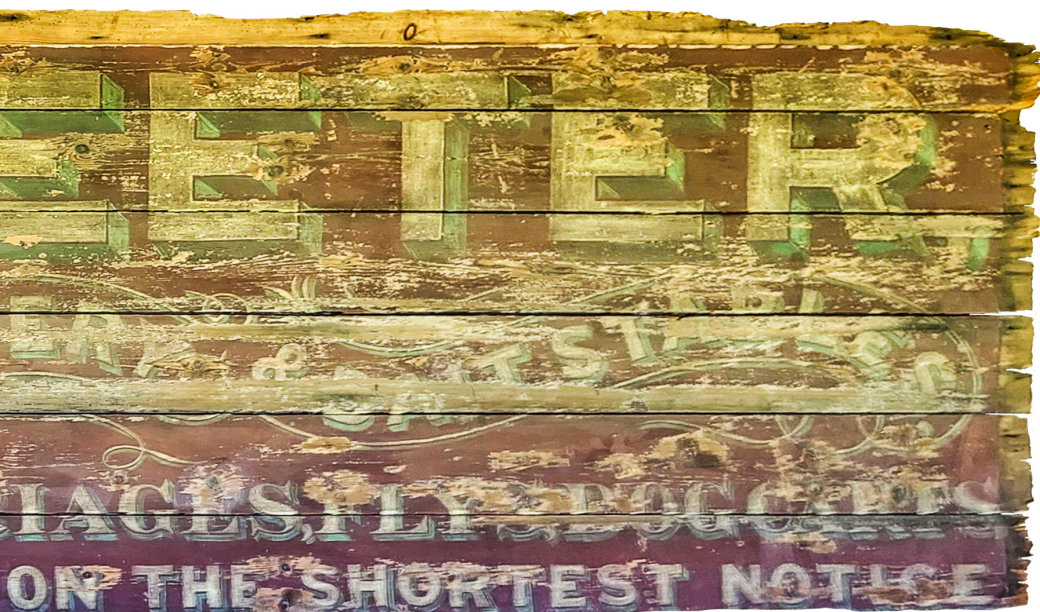
Close to Station.

Station 'Bus.

Horses and Carriages
for Hire.

Agent to the . . .
L.B. & S.C.R. Co.

H STREETER,
PROPRIETOR.



es, fly & dog carts, brakes & pony carriages on the shortest notice'. There was once another line which is now lost.

OPPOSITE Notice of the 1927 auction of Henry Streeter's horses and vehicles and his invoice to Miss Blagden for her various journeys in the summer of 1898.

Streeters were no longer using horses, or whether it was after Henry had left the Railway Hotel we do not know, but somehow it ended up as part of a garage behind the Masons Arms at Northmead Petworth. When the sign was found by Judy and Andrew Howard's builders in 1994 it formed a partition wall in two garages that had just been demolished. Judy's great grandfather Henry Cooper, a builder with a yard in Angel Street, had built the eight houses forming Northmead around 1930. He was renowned for using leftover materials from other projects. So, it would appear that the Streeter sign was taken down by him and was to hand when he came to build the garages.

The Railway Hotel seems to have been variously called the Railway Inn and the Railway Arms, but these are not the only names the premises have borne. We know that in 1952 the name of the hotel was changed to The Racehorse by the landlords, John and Peggy Hughes. The name was chosen as the inn was popular with those travelling to Goodwood racecourse. Sue Hamilton, John and Peggy's daughter who was born at the hotel, believes that the new sign was painted by the local postman.

In 1983 the name was changed again to The Badger & Honey Jar, and has been known as Badgers since the mid-1990s.

The story of what we now call Badgers is one of people against a background of changing times, needs and expectations. It is inconceivable that the hotel could have been called The Badger & Honeyjar when it was built and, equally, it would be strange if it was still called the Railway Hotel – much has changed over those 165 years and the inn has changed with it.

The author of this article and its timeline is indebted to the following:

Miles Costello in *PSM* 115, March 2024, page 32.

Adrian Gray, *The Railways of Mid-Sussex*, Oakwood Press, 1975, page 28.

Henry Hemming's Inventory & Valuation of the Railway Hotel & Half Moon Stable & Yard (The Coultershaw Collection).

West Sussex Gazette: Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, and Kent, August 9, 1928, page 10.

Steven Elliott (see page 28 of this magazine).

Sue Hamilton for verbal information in May 2024.

STREETER'S YARD,
PETWORTH.
In the centre of the Town, about 1½ miles from the Railway Station.

CATALOGUE OF SALE
INCLUDING
TWO CARRIAGE HORSES
NUMEROUS VEHICLES
INCLUDING
Two 4-wheel Vans, Waggonette, Two Landaus, Two Broughams, and 4-wheel Dog Cart,
Many of which are in good condition.

TWO FUNERAL HEARSES
INCLUDING AN
Excellent Class-Panelled Pair-Horse Washington Hearse and a small Single-Horse Hearse,
Several Sets of Single and Double Brass and Plated Mounted

CARRIAGE HARNESS
Saddles and Bridles, sundry Bits, Carriage Lamps, Spanners, &c.,

CROSSLEY GAS ENGINE
Shafting, Belting, Chaff Cutter, Clipping Machine, Tanks, Corn Bins, and numerous smaller items,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY

MESSRS
NEWLAND TOMPKINS
& TAYLOR

On **TUESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER, 1927,**
Commencing at 1.30 o'clock precisely.
By direction of Messrs. Streeter & Co. (who are replacing Horses with Motors).

ON VIEW THE MORNING OF SALE. Catalogues may be obtained of the Auctioneers, at their Offices, Petworth and at Pulborough, Sussex.

Mitchell & Co. (Printers), Ltd., West Sussex Gazette Office, Arundel.

Miss A. Blagden Oct 1898
DR. TO H. STREETER,
* * **Hvy Proprietor,** * *
LIVERY AND BAIT STABLES, NORMAN MEWS,
EAST STREET AND SWAN YARD,
And **RAILWAY INN, PETWORTH.**

Open and Closed Carriages, Char-à-bancs, Brakes, Pony Traps, &c.,
on the Shortest Notice.

<i>1898</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
<i>July 16th</i>	<i>fly for drive</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Aug 18th</i>	<i>" "</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>" 27th</i>	<i>" Barkfold & back</i>		<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>" 30th</i>	<i>" Bignor "</i>		<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Dec 10th</i>	<i>" Littleworth round by boat, station, and home</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>
		<i>£</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>13 6</i>

*Paid Oct 14/98
H. Streeter*

With thanks

RAILWAY HOTEL TIMELINE

- 1859 The Railway Hotel opens with Charles Dempster as landlord.
- 1878 Thomas and Sophie Pycroft take over the tenancy.
- 1883 Thomas dies and the tenancy is transferred to Sophie's name.
- 1897 In September Henry Streeter takes over the licence from Sophie Pycroft (Henry also bought the stable and yard at the Half Moon in Petworth from Mrs Pycroft).
- 1928 On August 3 Henry Streeter retires and the licence for the Railway Arms is conveyed to Mr Alfred Gee.
- 1939 The electoral register (September 29) lists Fletcher, Edward H. E. (born November 29, 1891) as a 'Licenced Victualler' as resident with Dorethy (wife?) and Irene (daughter?).
- 1943 Charlie and Connie Hughes take the licence around this time.
- 1948/49 John and Peggy Hughes take over the licence from John's parents (their daughter Sue Hamilton, née Hughes is born at the hotel in 1950).
- 1952 The name changes to The Racehorse.
- 1980 The pub closed.
- 1983 Under Michael and Joan Wichall the refitted pub opens as the Badger & Honeyjar.
- c. 1993 The name changes to Badgers.

The personal life of a Petworth businessman

Henry Streeter (1853-1936). Steven Elliott

I am the great, great grandson of Henry Streeter. He would have been a well-known character in Petworth and its surroundings after developing several business opportunities there. He was an employer, publican, caterer, bus operator, agent for the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, and a provider for the hire of carriages and other forms of horse-drawn vehicles. He ran stables in East Street and the Railway Inn at Coultershaw. The son of a farm labourer/farm bailiff he became a self-made businessman applying himself to anything that would earn a living for himself and his family. Confident, resilient and no-one's fool, he brought up four children with his wife, Isabella – two daughters and two sons and then his step-son George Garland.

But he had a tragic and rather sad personal life. His wife, Isabella died at 53, and their younger son died of tuberculosis very soon after her, aged 21. Then his older son, serving in the army, died two weeks after the end of the First World War from Spanish flu. Henry's sons appeared to have worked with him, one as a groom and one as a clerk in the bus company office.

Shortly after his wife died, Henry married widowed Lily Garland whose son, George, born in Brighton, was eight years old and the family lived at the Railway Inn. It seems that Henry encouraged his sons to join him in his businesses. Perhaps he would have wanted George to join him as well, but George had other talents and embarked on his photographic career. However, if it hadn't been for Henry hiring George's mother as housekeeper and then marrying her, the town would not have the rich legacy of George Garland's photographic record of Petworth life and the surrounding countryside.

Henry was born at Bury on May 30, 1853 to Edward Streeter, labourer and Sarah Streeter, née Burchell, who registered his birth in the registrar's district of Sutton. She signed the register with her mark on June 15, 1853. In 1861 the family was living in a cottage at Rackham Farm, near Amberley. The family consisted of Henry's parents Edward and Sarah and his older siblings William 26, Allen 14 and Charlotte aged ten. Henry himself was eight. His father Edward was the farm bailiff, William was a baker and Allen a ploughboy. So, Henry was brought up in a farming environment.

BELOW Henry Streeter at a coursing event at Aldingbourne. An undated photograph by George Garland.



But ten years later in 1871, when Henry was nineteen, he was lodging at Damers Bridge in Petworth with George and Triphyna Lamboll. George was a grocer's porter, and Henry a grocer's servant. Other lodgers were William Woolgar, 20, from Stoke in Surrey, an Ordnance Survey labourer, and Albert Ayles, 17, a baker from Haslemere.

Henry became a coachman at Little Bognor and subsequently married Isabella Ann Weeks in Petworth parish church on June 10, 1878 when they were both 25. Isabella was the daughter of John Weeks, an ostler. By the time of the 1881 census, when Henry was 27, he was an ostler and innkeeper of the Half Moon Tap in Northchapel. They had a daughter

Sarah Isabella who was one year old at that time. Sarah was born on July 9, 1879 and her sister Grace Evelyn on April 21, 1881, both in Petworth. The family was still in Northchapel in 1882 according to *Kelly's Directory*. Their first son, Harry George, was born about 1883 and their second, Edward in about 1887.

Henry started his own coaching business from East Street, Petworth where he had stables and a blacksmith's shop in Norman Mews, near where later would be Denmans the furniture shop and the Post Office. The premises had a covered, cobbled entrance where he used to keep the coach. He ran cabs and later a bus to meet every train at the station from the Swan Hotel and from the bus office around the corner near to what would become Harwood's garage.

BELOW Norman Mews Stables in East Street, Petworth at the far left with the sign 'Henry Streeter Fly Proprietor. Livery & bait stables, open & close carriages and pony traps at shortest notice'.

Henry favoured big signs to advertise the various services he offered. The sign in East Street said Henry was a Fly Proprietor offering 'livery & bait stables, open & close carriages and pony traps at shortest notice'.

However, life in business was not without its perils. At the Magistrates Court on March 29, 1890 'Thomas Hooker was charged with stealing 1½lb of horse hair from Henry Streeter. The prosecutor [Henry] said that he kept a lot of horse hair in the stable and on Monday last he missed a quantity and gave information to the police. A few days after, the defendant went to him and admitted the theft – Charles Ricketts [who had stables next to what is now the Petworth Cottage Museum] proved [to have] bought the horse hair, for which he paid one shilling. He handed the hair to P. C. Parsons – being a first offence the defendant was fined 10 shillings including costs.' (*Sussex Express*, April 12, 1890).

In 1891 Henry and Isabella were living in 'Back Road', Petworth. And the family included the two daughters, Sarah Isabella aged 11, Grace Evelyn, 9 and the two boys, Harry George, 8 and Edward, 4. Sarah, Grace and Harry were going to school, while Edward was still at home. Henry's occupation was 'coachman'.



BELOW The station bus outside of the bus office in Petworth in 1897. Photograph by Walter Kevis.

By 1901 Henry appeared to be well established from his stables in East Street calling himself a Job Master, renting out carriages and drivers to Petworth notables such as Mr Pitfield, the leading solicitor in the town, of Bellevue, who relied heavily on Henry Streeter to provide him with a carriage and driver for journeys out of town.¹ Henry also took on the licence at the Railway Hotel at Coultershaw in September 1897 which he would hold until 1928.

In 1898, Henry's daughter Sarah Isabella (aged about 18) married John Harvey Holden (about 22) on Portsea Island. John was the son of John Holden, the innkeeper of the White Hart in Petworth. Henry's other daughter, Grace, was engaged at one time but called off the engagement because someone told her that her fiancée was seen with another woman. She never married.

In 1901 Henry and Isabella were both 47 and living with their family in East Street, Petworth. The family consisted of Grace Evelyn aged 19, Harry, 18, a commercial clerk working at home, and Edward John who was 14. Also staying with the Streeter family was John Weeks, 75, Isabella's widower father who was living on his own means.



Sadly, there followed a series of untimely family deaths. First, Henry's wife Isabella died on April 19, 1907, aged 53, of 'aortic disease, diabetes and syncope' (fainting) when they were living in Norman Mews. This was shortly after giving birth to a child who died at birth. Henry was present when she died and registered her death the following day. When Henry registered her death, his occupation was 'Job Master and Hotel Keeper'. A Job Master was someone who let out horses and carriages by the job or for a limited time. Henry then married Lilian (Lily) Garland on June 21, 1908.

Just over a year after Isabella died, her son Edward (known as Ted) aged 21, died from 'pulmonary tuberculosis and asthenia' on July 16, 1908 at the home in East Street. He had been a domestic groom. When Henry, aged 55, registered his son's death two days later he gave his residence as the Railway Inn, Petworth. So, Ted's death occurred the month after Henry and Lily were married.

Henry not only provided catering at the Railway Inn but also for large events, such as, on June 15, 1910 at the anniversary of the Petworth Park Friendly Society in Petworth Park: 'There in a spacious marquee, luncheon was served by Mr Henry Streeter to a company numbering close on 200.' (*West Sussex Gazette*, June 23, 1910). The members of the Society comprised past and present employees on Lord Leconfield's estate at Petworth. Following an annual meeting in the Audit Room at the House, they would attend a service in the parish church and then have lunch in the Park followed by amusements.

By 1911, Henry's elder daughter, Grace, aged 30, was living in Chichester as a lodger in one room at 45 Southgate, working as a refreshment-room attendant. According to the 1911 census when Lily was 35 Henry stated his age as 53 but he was in fact 57. The Railway Hotel was recorded as having nine rooms and there were two members of staff resident at the time of the census, Katie Euvis, aged 22, a barmaid from Hartencombe, Hampshire and Amelia Ann Medgewick 17, a general servant from Bognor. Signing the census return Henry

Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)	
I certify that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.	
Signature	Henry Streeter
Postal Address	Railway Inn Petworth

Despite only a moderate education Streeter had fine handwriting. A detail from his 1911 census return.

Streeter's handwriting shows a good hand. He now referred to himself as a 'Job Master and Inn Keeper'.

Henry's father-in-law, John Weeks, died on October 12, 1912 in the Petworth Workhouse infirmary while normally resident in the home in East Street. His former profession was given as 'publican'. He was 85 and died of 'chronic enlargement of the prostate gland and cystitis'. He also had bronchitis which must have made for an uncomfortable end to his life.

On June 11, 1913, again at the annual fête of the Petworth Park Friendly Society in the Park, '...the marquees that had served the Surrey Yeomanry during the camp, were used, and Mr Henry Streeter of Petworth, had dinner ready for rather more than 200 guests.' (*West Sussex Gazette*, June 11, 1913). This suggests Henry's significant organizing ability.

Then on June 17, 1914, despite the threat of war, the 58th anniversary of the Petworth Park Friendly Society in the Park went ahead: '...here in a spacious tent dinner was served by Mr Henry Streeter'. (*West Sussex Gazette*, June 25, 1914). He must have been efficient at this sort of catering to be asked back time after time!

On Tuesday May 18, 1915 during the National Egg Collection 'thanks are also due to... Mr Henry Streeter for conveying the boxes to and from the station.' (*West Sussex Gazette*, May 20, 1915). This may suggest that he was willing to help for a good cause. The eggs were sent to base hospitals in France and Belgium for nourishment of the wounded. At one point 250,000 fresh eggs were sent each week nationally, over 2,000 depots were run by local groups and churches and free travel was provided by the railways. It was reported again on May 18, 1920, that '...thanks were also given to Mr Henry Streeter for conveying the [egg] boxes to and from the station.'

The Great War ended on November 11, 1918 but there was short-lived joy for the Streeter family. Henry's older son Harry, was a (clerk) private in the Remount section of the army, first in Petworth Park and later at Pluckley in Kent. Tragically, on November 25, 1918, just two weeks after the war ended, Harry died, aged 36, of 'influenza and broncho-pneumonia' at Ashford, Kent. His death was registered by his wife Eva Streeter, present at the death and resident then at 8 Linden Terrace, Horsham. She stated her husband's civilian job was railway clerk at the Railway Hotel, Petworth. Family memory has it that Harry had a withered right hand and before the war had worked as a clerk in the bus office with his father. Eva was Henry Streeter's daughter-in-law. She never married again after her husband's death, and was tragically killed during the bombing of Petworth Boys School in November 1942. She was living in the

cottage behind the school with her daughter Elsie Streeter and her grandson, John Streeter who was blinded as a result of the bombing. He was present because he didn't go to the infants school that day due to a cold and the weather being bad. His father, Henry Streeter junior, was away in the war at the time.

After the Great War and his son's death Henry Streeter senior continued providing his services, but renting out carriages had its hazards and a fatality occurred on January 26, 1924. The accident happened in Petworth at the junction of Tillington Road and Station Road when a horse-drawn tilt-van hired out by Henry Streeter to the deceased and driven by Albert Foster of Upperton, toppled over while turning sharply into Station Road heading towards the station, breaking its draw-bar and causing the death of a passenger, James Wood Prentice, of Southport, Lancashire, who was crushed under a wheel. An inquest was held into the incident where Henry was exonerated from blame.

The following year, Henry's second wife, Lily May Streeter, died on October 23 and probate was granted for her will at Chichester on December 5, 1925 to the public trustee with effects of £426 0s 11d. By this time, her son, George Garland, was 25. Henry soldiered on and at the Petworth Petty Sessions on May 5, 1926 'an occasional licence was granted to Mr Henry Streeter of the Railway Hotel for the half yearly stock sale at Coultershaw on May 3rd'.

Perhaps it all got too much for Henry on reaching the age of 75, having run the Railway Hotel for 27 years, and the licence for the 'Railway Arms' was transferred to Mr Alfred Gee on August 3, 1928.

Henry seems to have retired to the Isle of Wight, probably because his daughter Grace was working there. He died on December 23, 1936, aged 83, at 17 Adelaide Place, Ryde of 'myocarditis, thickening of the heart, specifically the cardium, and also hydrocele and an inguinal hernia'. Adelaide Onlay, housekeeper, was present when he died and registered the death the same day, probably to help Grace, as later, the 1939 register records that Grace was working with her as a 'stillroom maid' at 'Holmbush', Alexander Road, Ryde.

Quite probably Henry moved away from the Petworth area as quietly as he arrived but his legacy is that he developed businesses in the town and at Coultershaw over a long period which many people used and relied on. While there is no evidence to suggest that Henry specifically encouraged George Garland in his photographic career, he did provide a home for him and his mother during George's formative years.

1 For an account of Mr Pitfield's troubled relationship with his temperamental and unreliable motor car see *PSM* 195, June 2024, page 126.

PICTURE NOTE

Andrew Loukes

Petworth, Sussex, the seat of the Third Earl of Egremont: Dewy Morning
by Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851) 1810.

Oil on canvas, 91.5 x 120.5cms. Tate.

Among the most familiar works of art associated with Petworth, Turner's depiction of the house was commissioned in 1809 by the third Earl of Egremont who had already bought several landscapes and seascapes from him. By this date, country house portraiture had become another genre for which Turner was much sought after. As was his usual practice for such assignments, during this first of many recorded visits to Petworth he made pencil drawings on site, one of which would be translated into a finished oil painting in his London studio. After its exhibition at the Royal Academy in the following year the painting went to Egremont's London house, 4 Grosvenor Place (now demolished), and only came to Petworth much later in the nineteenth century – probably in the 1870s. Like all twenty Turner oil paintings in the house, that often known simply as 'Dewy Morning' was given to HM Treasury in the 1950s in lieu of inheritance tax before its formal ownership was eventually allocated to the Tate Gallery in 1984.

The painting reflects Turner's growing interest in depicting atmospheric effects at certain times of day, which he often introduces in the titles of his works. Here, vapour rises from the morning dew at the west front of Petworth House and the scene is imbued with an overall freshness largely achieved through his new practice of laying colours onto a canvas prepared with a white ground layer, an approach partially rooted in his mastery of the watercolour medium – where translucent washes of colour are illuminated by light reflecting off the paper beneath. Interestingly, it was entirely Turner's technical processes in striving for painterly effects which preoccupied and divided the critics in their reviews of *Dewy Morning* when it was first exhibited.

Despite its progressive artistic qualities, however, the painting is among Turner's most faithful representations of a view in either oils or watercolours, remaining close to the details which he had recorded on the spot in his pencil drawing. Notable among these are the central triangular pediment on the façade of the house (added c.1770s; taken down 1816) and the boathouse (built 1791) shown prior to its later-nineteenth century additions and with adjacent saplings protected by deer-proof fencing (see the back cover of this

magazine). The square tower of St Mary's church which originally featured in the composition was subsequently overpainted to show Charles Barry's spire of 1827 (demolished 1948), an update presumably executed by Turner during a later visit to Grosvenor Place.

Often overlooked is the central activity of the scene: men are shown fishing with nets, a point of particular interest to such a keen angler as Turner who regularly fished the lake himself. Here he observes live fish being captured unharmed for transferal to the stew ponds to the west of the lake for cleansing (see illustration on page 20). After a spell in pure spring water the fresh fish could be removed to the great kitchens of Petworth House where they were frequently required in large quantities. Turner's observation is supported by the Estate workmen's accounts for the period: on July 6, 1805, for example, there is an entry for 'mending nets & fishing the great pond' (Petworth House Archive No.2245). There are further regular references to clearing the stews and cleaning boats.

J. M. W. Turner. *Petworth, Sussex, the seat of the Third Earl of Egremont: Dewy Morning*. © Tate, 2025.



BELOW Details of *Dewy Morning* showing the triangular pediment on the façade of Petworth House, the 1827 spire of St Mary's Church and fish being captured for transferal to the stew ponds. Both images © Tate, 2025.



Who made the film and who is the child?

Jonathan Newdick

These three images are stills are from an amateur silent film of steam trains on the Pulborough to Petersfield line in 1955. The film-maker is unknown, but is credited as possibly a 'Mr. Merritt' (?). As some of the filming was done from the footplate of a locomotive, he might have worked for, or had some influence over, what had been the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway Company. The film lasts for 21 minutes and is available free on line from Screen Archive South East.

It is possible that a reader might know the identity of the film-maker or of the child having a bit of bicycle difficulty on Petworth station. Any information would be gratefully received both by this magazine and by Screen Archive South East at the University of Brighton. The scenes opposite are of flooded fields south of Pulborough and of Kilsham Farm, Petworth.





Moderate refreshment on stipulated terms

The General Election of 1826. Andrew Howard

I was inspired to write this article by my sometimes rather surprising findings in the letters written by the third Earl of Egremont's Agent William Tyler to his master during the General Election of 1826 (Petworth House Archives No.12020; see *PSM* 197 for my previous article introducing this document).

Contrasts with present-day elections start with the date. The 1826 election did not take place on a single day but over a prolonged period stretching from June 7 to July 12, with a running public tally of votes cast. The electorate was very much smaller than it is today and essentially was restricted to men of some property. Voting took place in Chichester for both the two Chichester seats and the two Sussex County seats. Constituencies were heavily biased towards landowners, and disregarded the growth of industrial towns. Elsewhere in the county, far smaller constituencies such as the notorious 'Rotten Boroughs' of Midhurst and Steyning also returned two seats each. The ballot was not secret, and would not be until the major restructuring of the electoral process which began with the Great Reform Act of 1832 and which continued until the final full enfranchisement of women in 1928. Constituency boundaries remain subject to ongoing change. The correspondence provides an excellent insight into events as they developed.

The Prime Minister was the Tory Lord Liverpool (1770-1828), seeking his fourth successive election victory. He had been in office since the assassination of his predecessor Spencer Perceval in 1812 and remained in post until he had a stroke in 1827. His Whig opponents were led by the Marquess of Lansdowne (1780-1863). Egremont supported the two Tory candidates standing for the Sussex County seats: Edward Jeremiah Curteis of Windmill Hill, near Hurstmonceux, representing the east, and Walter Burrell of West Grinstead Park representing the west. Both were seeking to retain their seats from the previous General Election of 1820. As his Agent, William Tyler, 'WT' hereafter, gave Lord Egremont a running commentary on proceedings.

TYLER'S LETTERS

Summarized from PHA 12020, see above.

May 31. WT has a letter from Mr. Palmer (the Under-Sheriff's Agent) requesting

to know whether Lord Egremont's friends wish for an early or late proclamation of the County election, or whether it may be material that the county and Shoreham elections do not clash, as WT does not know whether Mr. Burrell be in town, nor if he be, what is his present address. Perhaps Lord Egremont will take the trouble of getting this communication made to Mr. Burrell, and to Sir Charles, as the county writ is expected to reach Palmer's hand on Saturday morning, supposing as the expectation is that the dissolution will be on Friday.

[Sir Charles Burrell of Knepp Castle, was the MP for Shoreham and also seeking re-election. He was Walter's brother and Egremont's son-in-law.]

June 15. The enclosed letter has just reached WT by express from Mr. Burrell at Chichester, who desired WT to forward it to Lord Egremont immediately. Sir Godfrey Webster having lost his election for Chichester is now canvassing for the County. WT will endeavour with Mr. Sockett (Rector of St Mary's, Petworth) to forward a few of the freeholders in the immediate neighbourhood to be ready to poll today. If Lord Egremont has any instruction to give, WT will be glad to receive them at Chichester.

[Sir Godfrey Webster of Battle Abbey was a famously dissolute Tory who had lost his Sussex seat to Curteis in 1820.]

June 16. WT presumes that Mr. Burrell acquainted Lord Egremont the previous day with the agreement entered into by the candidates, to be at no expense of bringing forward nor treating nor even feeding voters; and also, the state of the poll at the close at six o'clock yesterday. The polling was very slack as it was understood that Sir Godfrey Webster could bring forward at the utmost only about 200 voters of the lowest description in Chichester and its neighbourhood, WT has sent forward to the poll today some but many more voters, beyond those of yesterday. WT hopes before he closes his letter to subjoin the state of today's poll, though he has not received it.

WT encloses the state of the Sussex poll at its close the previous day. Lord Egremont will see that Sir Godfrey Webster is three ahead of Mr. Curteis; this

has of course encouraged his party and he sent out yesterday to Brighton to get forward his radical friends there, so that probably the poll may be kept open for some days; though WT should hope without a chance of eventual success, unless Mr. Curteis should give up, which WT understands his friends have had some difficulty in preventing – WT is going on regularly sending forward voters from this neighbourhood, the same as in the last contest. WT encloses a copy of Mr. Curteis' address put out the previous night (for WT cannot get a printed one). If he depends upon the voluntary advance to the Poll of his voters, WT fears but few will appear, as the bad party are much more alert and active than the well intending ones. Many voters might be got from Brighton, if they were brought forward, but it is futile to suppose that the quarter part of them will come forward at their own expense.

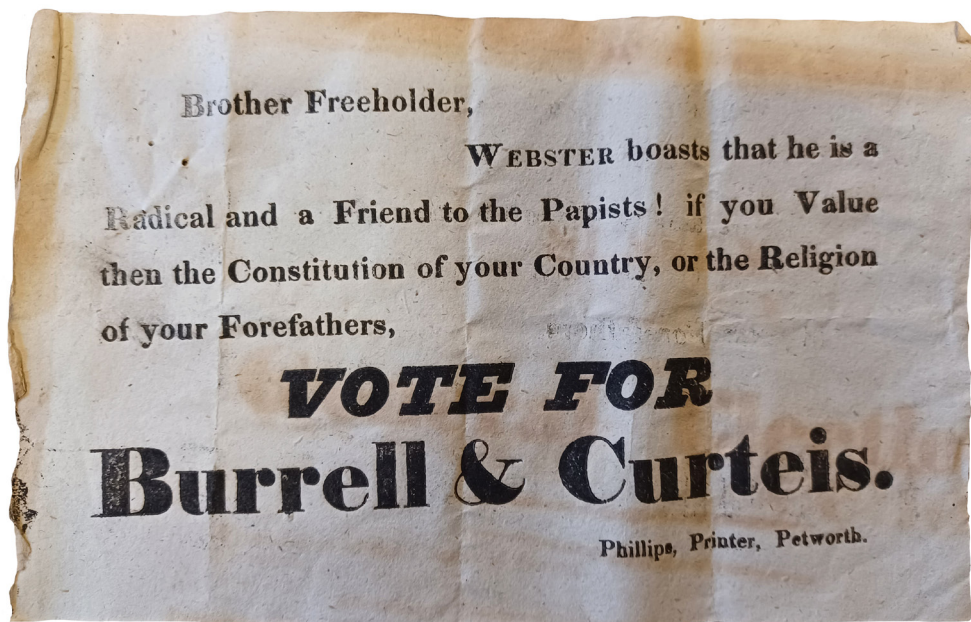
The pledge entered into by the candidates (and of which WT trusts that Mr. Burrell has informed Lord Egremont) not to canvas nor bring forward the voters was a most unadvised one, and WT much suspects a scheme got up by Mr. Godfrey, its original purpose a shabby looking fellow who stated he lived in Hampshire, but was a Sussex freeholder. If Lord Egremont means to encounter the expense of bringing any voters from Brighton, and wishes a canvas to take place there then please would he let WT know by return of post.

WT has received a letter from one of Mr. Sumners' committees in Guildford, requesting WT to canvas the Surrey votes in this neighbourhood, but WT cannot venture to do this until he knows Lord Egremont's wish. WT will be willing to canvas for them if Lord Egremont consents. If Lord Egremont could spare them, please would he send down a couple of pairs or more of coach horses. It would save the expense and much assist getting forward voters to the poll. Young Ball could drive them if Lord Egremont cannot spare a coachman.

[George Home Sumner of Hatchlands Park was a standing MP for Surrey and had previously also represented Guildford.]

June 19. The state of the poll at 3.00 p.m. today was thus: Burrell 605, Curteis 489, Webster 396. WT has sent many voters from this neighbourhood today. If WT gets a state of the poll at its close in time for the post, he will enclose it.

BELOW From a collection of posters and broadsheets supporting William Burrell and Edward Curteis in the 1826 General Election (PHA 10388, reproduced by permission of Lord Egremont). This example claims Sir Godfrey Webster to be a Radical and a Papist.



Mr. Sumner has resigned from Surrey. He was considered a diligent member, especially in private business.

June 20. Curteis has really had no reason to complain of not being supported by Burrell's voters as the instances are very few where even of their own will they have not voted for both these candidates. WT presumes that he may have taken the impression from Mr. James Eades having as his own act and without having been sent forward by WT and Lord Egremont, taken with him Upchurch (or Lucas) and Luff (of Byworth) and persuaded them to give Plumbers to Mr. Burrell and as there are those there who voted on Friday immediately after such others, this might have alarmed Mr. Curteis that the general feeling of this neighbourhood is in his favour. Indeed, WT thinks that there is scarcely one of the large party whom we dispatched hence yesterday, who did not vote for him. WT will enclose the state of today's poll as soon as it arrives.

[‘Plumbers’ were votes cast for a single candidate where it was possible to vote for two.]

OPPOSITE A pocketbook measuring 6 x 4 inches listing over 300 voters who benefited from 'moderate refreshment' at the White Horse on South Street, Chichester as a reward for their allegiance to Burrell (PHA 10395, reproduced by permission of Lord Egremont). There are eighteen pages of names entered from 16 June to 1 July, 1826. The White Horse is now Prezzo, the Italian restaurant.

June 21. I send a state of the poll at the close of this afternoon. The blackguards at Chichester have before been totally quiet, and today are getting riotous and attacked the voters in Curteis' interest with stones particularly in the entrance at St. Pancras.

June 22. WT is apprehensive that in making up his letter last night to save the post he omitted to include the state of the poll. If so he much regrets it. Young Curteis has been active in his father's interest in Chichester, and was much beaten yesterday by the rabble. If he had not been rescued, he was in much danger of being killed. WT understands that he dares not appear at all now in the city, this the blackguards call freedom of election. Mr. George Tripp voted a Plumper for Sir Godfrey. Mr. Fielding though repeatedly applied to and promising to go had not voted at all on Tuesday. WT now encloses the state of yesterday's poll and hopes to receive that of today in time to enclose it also.

June 23. A letter from Mr. Curteis, who has been canvassing in eastern part of the county, to Mr. Burrell, states that he can have a great number of votes but that he is bound by his pledge not to bring them forward. WT supposes that he is afraid of the expense. The rumour is that Lord Robert Spencer has advanced a considerable sum to assist Sir Godfrey, and the Duke of Norfolk and even Mr. Poyntz, though they do not canvas for him, are well disposed towards his party, and none of their connection vote for Mr. Curteis, or in any way assist him. WT does not know whether this be true or not. The Mr. Overington who made the foolish proposition on the opening of the election was of Arundel, and is a man of some property, and is now a brewer in Wickham in Hampshire, but as there are several families there of that name WT cannot learn whether he is son of the widow who applied for the Post Office. WT will enclose at state of the poll if he receives one. The votes from this neighbourhood are nearly all polled, and a few stragglers only will be henceforth forwarded from here.

Since WT wrote his first letter of June 23 he has received the enclosed

White Horse Chichester

1826 Dinners &

June 16 Ben Newell —

Robt Parry —

Wm Gadd —

— Goldring

— Chalcraft —

Young Dr (drove

— his grandfather)

— Rusbridger —

— Woolgar —

Thos Gadd —

Henry Gadd —

Wm Blanchard —

Geo Belchamber

Newell &

Chas Dearling —

Wm Storer —

letter from Mr. Curteis. WT does not believe that Col. Wyndham or his friends gave Plumpers for Mr. Burrell. The state of the City of Chichester is terrible, the voters for Mr. Burrell and Mr. Curteis are unwilling to go into the town they are so assaulted and abused. WT knows not how Lord Egremont as Lieutenant of the County may think it right to interfere either by application to the Secretary of State or otherwise. The state of the ten-day poll shows that Mr. Curteis has no reason to despair.

June 25. A reference to the Poll Book by Mr. Curteis will show his unfounded apprehension about the voters of Mr. Burrell's more immediate friends. Lord Egremont need have no immediate fears about WT communicating with Mr. Curteis. By Thursday's and Saturday's polls it appears that many more of his friends voted Plumpers than Mr. Burrell's friends. However, the state of the Poll must relieve Mr. Curteis from all fear of the event, though it is expected that Sir G. will keep the Poll open till Saturday. Chichester was much more peaceable yesterday, a special constable having been appointed by the mayor, but the absurdity that they are, at least they were at the last election, paid high daily wages, expensively fed by the candidates.

June 27. It is quite certain, notwithstanding what the Chichester people may say to the contrary, that before applications were made to prevent it, much violence was used towards the voters. One elderly man returned with his leg much bruised by a stone thrown by some of the mob surrounding the courtyard, and stones were frequently thrown by others, and of one of the carriages the lamps were broken to pieces, and several of them covered with mud by the rabble at St. Pancras, and to such a height was it got that the voters hesitated to go forward and others would not stir from their homes though fear. However easy it may be for those at a distance to disregard these tumults, it does much to prevent the getting forward of voters to oppose a popular candidate.

July 2. WT encloses the state of the poll at closing yesterday at 3.00 o'clock. Everything went off quietly, WT presuming that Mr. Burrell had

communicated with Lord Egremont the arrangement made on his behalf about the election. WT does not think that Mr. Burrell has been charged with having broken any pledge made by him on the first day. Indeed, the mob has been tolerably peaceful since the Mayor interfered on the letter of the Secretary of State.

Before WT left for Chichester with Mr. Sockett, it was settled that Burrell should be responsible for moderate refreshment on stipulated terms, of the voters forwarded by us from this part of the county in Mr. Burrell's interest, at the White Horse in the South Street. WT sent Winder thither to keep the accounts, and Dilloway to conduct the voters to the poll (which was most effective) and there at the Inn everything has gone most quietly and regularly; on their return the voters have expressed themselves well satisfied; though as to expecting voters generally to maintain themselves, it is quite out of the question. Henry Foard, Colonel Wyndham's Agent, has been most exemplarily active at Chichester in bringing up the voters.

July 9. There is an ill-tempered paragraph in the *Brighton Herald* this week, perhaps calculated to injure Mr. Burrell, suggesting that his friends did not help Curteis to the same degree as Curteis's helped Burrell. Perhaps the latter gentleman should have a paragraph inserted to counteract the effect of the other. 'I inclose a letter of Mr. Curteis's to show that he entertains a deep sense of your Lordship's kindness to his support.'

The Election does not arise again in the correspondence. Lord Liverpool won his fourth election victory, a record that holds today, winning handsomely by 428 seats to 198 in a House of Commons with 658 MPs. The new parliament was summoned on July 26, 1826. Lord John Lennox and William Poyntz won Chichester for the Whigs, while Edward Curteis and Walter Burrell won Sussex for the Tories.

So, a very different style of election to today's. And, although probably no worse than any number of polling stations under the pre-Reform electoral system, what an unpleasant place Chichester seems to have been.

The Coultershaw Collection

Tony Sneller

Readers of this magazine have, for over fifty years, enjoyed articles that have drawn on historical material gathered by Peter Jerrome, Miles Costello and many others. Now is your chance to explore this extensive archive yourself as it forms part of The Coultershaw Collection which is now open every Tuesday morning between ten and twelve o'clock.

With thousands of documents covering Petworth and the surrounding villages, the collection offers a unique insight into our local history and the people who have lived and worked in the district. If you are not sure what you are looking for, a member of the collections team will be on hand to offer advice. Of course, you could just browse the archive and our extensive library, or even volunteer to help catalogue documents.

Documents cannot be removed from the collection, but we will be able to scan items of interest and they can then be emailed to you.

Why not visit us and have a hot drink and a chat? We are at the Coultershaw Heritage Site just south of Petworth on the A285. Simply take the lane by the side of the Coultershaw Beam Pump and you will find us in The Warehouse.



A tiny fraction of the extensive archive at Coultershaw which is now free for anyone to consult.