

## Long lost view



Here's a view that hasn't been seen for a long time (and won't be again, for that matter). It's of St Mary's from the vicarage garden, and as we can see there was once a fine tennis court to play on – but not on Sundays, of course. The new vicarage was built in 1841, just after the arrival of Canon John Fisher Hodgson, and it was said by Dorothea Hurst in her *History and Antiquities of Horsham* to have 'good gardens, shrubbery and paddock'.

The once extensive grounds have been reduced by development in the twentieth century, and as we know the process is not yet over; this old tennis court now resembles a bomb site. Back in 1930, when the photograph was taken (perhaps by EW Copnall, a talented local photographer of the time), there were far fewer trees, and a view like this would not be possible today, because so many now obscure it – and also because of the development that lies ahead, of course. That's why the photograph is so interesting.

If there's one bit of good news from the decimation of the vicarage grounds, it's that archaeologists have found traces of medieval dwellings on the site. It was always a fair bet that land near the church was occupied in earlier times, but it's good to have it confirmed.

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## Editor's note

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Welcome back everyone. There are a couple of items about rare publications with a local angle this month, which I hope will be of interest, and as ever a good letters page. Peggy Gledhill needs help with green spaces (page 66), a matter of concern to us all – so do get in touch. Copy date for the November issue is 6 October.

## Argument with a robot

I had an argument with a disembodied voice over the phone the other day, and lost hands down. I called the electricity people to give a correct meter reading, and found myself dealing with a nicely spoken upper-class lady – but one whose tones rang strangely chill.

It gradually dawned with me that this was no human being, but a robot who had been designed especially by EDF's boffins to ask precisely constructed questions of its callers – but if the callers' responses were not equally precisely constructed, and right in line with the recognition factors embedded in its computer programme, there was trouble ahead. The voice wasn't exactly rude, but took the line – in an aloof and disembodied manner – that any answers with add-ons would be disregarded; better get it right, first time round.

When requested by madam auto-voice, for the umpteenth time, to say yes or no to a question, I eventually lost the plot and snapped: 'Yes, *for Heaven's sake*'. This deviation, although fairly mild, was quite out of order of course – not at all to the lady's liking – and I was asked, coldly and firmly, to try again, but with no ad libs this time. At this point I gave up, a beaten man.

## From the Committee

### A green space in New Street – help needed

**Peggy Gledhill writes:** We are concerned for the continued existence of the green spaces in the town. The threat of extensive house building has prompted the committee to revive its appeal for help, first published in the Society's Newsletter in Nov-Dec 1994.

Last year, at the Society's expense, our chairman sent details of the process of registering town greens, as permanent open spaces, to all Neighbourhood Councils – but we have had a disappointing response. May we remind our readers that even green spaces owned by the District Council can be the subject of planning applications.

One such is the green space on the east side of New Street between the Rehoboth Chapel and the rear buildings of Brighton Road Baptist Church. The principal condition for registration is sufficient evidence that the green has been used for 20 years by local people for the enjoyment of sports and pastimes. Even walking or sitting on the green counts as a pastime. So is there anyone willing to collect evidence in the locality to support a claim for registration of this green space? There is a footpath across the grass leading to the period cottages at the rear.

If so please contact Peggy Gledhill on 01403 265616

### Newsletter distribution

We are delighted to welcome Kathy Gleeson as our new Distribution Organiser, and thank her for coming forward. We found Kathy (or Kathy found us) through the good offices of the Horsham Volunteer Bureau, and as from this issue she will handle and update the allocation of copies to our team of distributors.

In recent months I have delivered the monthly batches to each distributor, and have so much enjoyed peddling around the four corners of the town that I will continue this part of the job. But in future could distributors please notify Kathy, instead of John Steele, of any changes to their delivery lists that they might know of. Her contact details are on the back page, and messages can always be left on her answerphone.

**BS**



Richard Reed has drawn our attention to damage to the Causeway grass resulting from pedestrians exiting from the Forum alleyway and taking the direct route across to the town centre. We will seek a solution with the Council.

### Visit our website

Thanks to excellent work by Ann Needham, the Society's website is looking better than ever these days, so do pay a visit. It's got a classy, attractive design, and a lot of the material has been updated, with a number of new items which have not appeared before, anywhere. It's now much more topical as well. It's not difficult to access (even I managed to do it), and remember - you can choose to receive your Newsletter this way if you so wish. The address is on the back page.

### Chesworth Farm

We were first alerted by local residents about a proposal to use the field at Chesworth Farm adjacent to the YMCA football ground for two or three junior football pitches. The Council is preparing a management plan for the farm, which will be open for consultation this Autumn. The Society is waiting to see the proposals before it takes a firm line but in general terms it would be very worried about any incursion into Chesworth Farm. The Council's record on Horsham Park (see this page) does not inspire confidence that it would end with the football pitches. Jim Gee (HDC Leisure Services Manager) told a large meeting of Forest Neighbourhood Council that there were no plans for flood-lighting or changing rooms, and it was hoped that access would be across a footbridge from the YMCA ground. Whilst welcome, of course this did nothing to reassure the residents of Gorings Mead who would have to put up with the traffic and parking.

As a first step the Council must prove that the need for additional pitches is both real and cannot be provided in other locations or by better use of existing facilities such as school playing fields. If necessary schools must be told to share their facilities. After all, it is the public that paid for them. **JS**

### Football Ground

There has long been a plan to redevelop the football ground and it is one of the last large central sites to become available. It is essential in our view that the development should be of high quality and a credit to Horsham. Unfortunately we judge the plans submitted by Sunley Homes to fall far short of the quality of layout and design which we think Horsham deserves. Worryingly, we understand the proposals are the product of lengthy pre-application discussions between the developer and HDC's planning department. We have lodged an objection to the planning application and have urged the planning committee to have the courage to reject the proposals. The Society has also issued a press release to that effect.

### Horsham Park

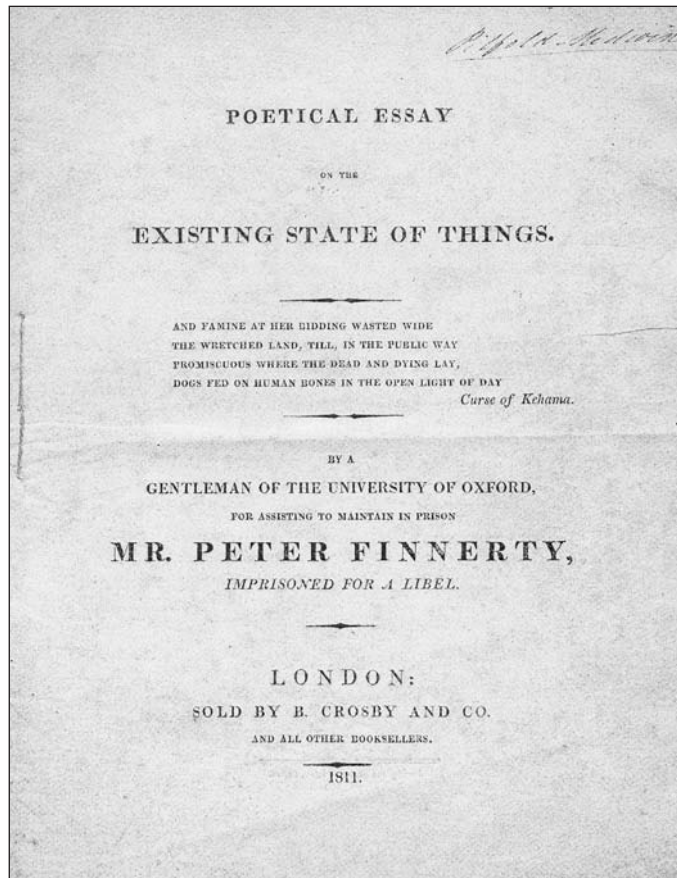
We have been active in opposing what we see as unnecessary changes to Horsham Park, particularly where further encroachments for parking or building works are concerned. We wish to see the Park retain its open parkland setting with sweeping views and mature forest trees and will continue to resist the Council's plans for more flower beds. We are also pressing the case for demolishing the nursery building, now that the nursery is being relocated, and returning the area to parkland. We lost a large area to the Pavilions and every opportunity should be taken to replace it. **JS**



# Poetical Essay: a major Shelley discovery

## by Brian Slyfield

In July 2006 an exciting announcement was made in the national press, to the effect that a copy of a hitherto unseen pamphlet by Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Poetical Essay on the Existing State of Things*, had been discovered; scholars and others with an interest in the Romantics – and this poet in particular – immediately sat up and took notice. The find was of special relevance here in Horsham, not just because Shelley was born at Field Place in nearby Warnham and his family had a close connection with our town, but more specifically because the newly-discovered pamphlet had once been owned by Pilfold Medwin, a cousin of Shelley's and a local solicitor, who is now buried in Denne Road cemetery. His signature was on the title page.



Briefly, the background to the find was as follows: an alert book dealer, while sorting through a bundle of miscellaneous items, took a second look at one in particular and thought it might be worth exploring further, even though Shelley's name as author was not on the title page and there was, at first glance, little to class it as being above average interest. Some research on the internet followed, and his hunch that it was an item out of the ordinary proved to be spot on. He then approached Bernard Quaritch, a leading London antiquarian bookseller with a worldwide reputation, and the rarity and importance of his find was fully established. The item is now for sale through Quaritch and one hopes that its eventual home will be in one of the country's great libraries, perhaps the Bodleian back at the poet's old university in Oxford, which already has a fine holding of Shelley material.

So what exactly is the pamphlet, and why is it such an important find? To look at, it is very unassuming: it is in quarto format, and consists of twenty pages, stitched and uncut, just as it appeared when it was first issued. The title page carries a publication date of 1811 (early March, in fact) and the statement *London: sold by B Crosby and Co and all other booksellers*. The title of the work is followed by the explanatory lines *...by a Gentleman of the University of Oxford, for assisting to maintain in prison Mr Peter Finnerty, imprisoned for a libel*.

The work is dedicated to *Harriet W-B-K*, and this constitutes the first printed reference to Harriet Westbrook, Shelley's first wife, with whom he eloped in August 1811 and who was later to

commit suicide in the Serpentine in 1816. Following the dedication there is a *Preface*, a short essay which takes as its subjects politics and religion, and which calls for a *total reform in the licentiousness, luxury, depravity, prejudice, which involves society*. And after that is the poem itself, 172 lines of rhyming couplets, of which more shortly. Henry R Woudhuysen, Professor of English at University College, London, noted in an article in the 14 July 2006 issue of the *Times Literary Supplement* that the regularity of the couplets is uncharacteristic of the poet, and suggests that there may have been a collaboration with Shelley's sister Elizabeth, as with his first work *Original Poetry by Victor and Cazire*, published a year earlier in 1810 and printed by Charles and William Phillips (the sons of the printer James Phillips of

Horsham) at their Worthing works (see *Horsham Society Newsletter* June 2002).

The writing of *Poetical Essay* was prompted by the imprisonment for libel of Peter Finnerty, a radical Irish journalist, who was sentenced to eighteen months in Lincoln gaol in February 1811 for criticising an 1809 British military action against the French (who held Antwerp), and for accusing Lord Castlereagh of the abuse of United Irish prisoners in 1798. The journalist's plight attracted much support and Shelley, quick as ever to back a radical cause and a perceived injustice, contributed to a fund to maintain Finnerty while in prison. At this time he was in his second term at University College, Oxford, and a month after Finnerty's imprisonment advertisements for *Poetical Essay* appeared in the *Oxford University and City Herald*, as well as in *The Morning Chronicle* and *The Times*.

But while the Finnerty case triggered the writing of *Poetical Essay*, its actual subject matter ranged widely, encompassing the devastations of war, the iniquities of Castlereagh (with his '*Vices as glaring as the noon-day sun*'), the tyranny of Napoleon and the oppressions of colonial India. Sir Francis Burdett, who initiated a public subscription in support of Finnerty, was the hero of the poem.

Through its press advertisements scholars had long known of *Poetical Essay*, but no copy was thought to survive, either in one of our main libraries or in a private collection. It was supposed

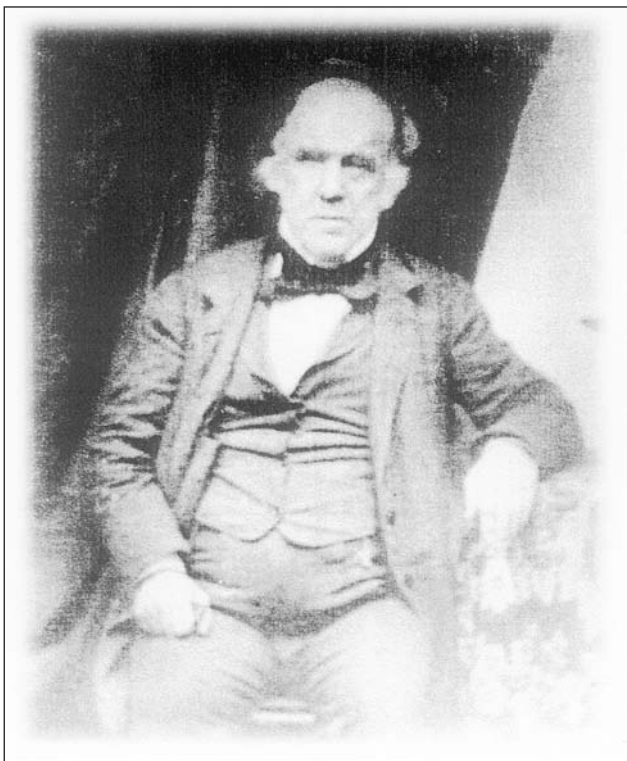
that all copies had been destroyed, because of the provocative nature of their subject matter – as indeed had all but one known copy of Shelley's *The Necessity of Atheism* (again printed by the Phillips brothers at Worthing, in February 1811), a work which resulted in him being thrown out of Oxford. In fact the conjunction of two radical publications by the recently-arrived young undergraduate, not yet nineteen, might have been too much for the authorities, and *Poetical Essay* could well have hastened his expulsion.

But we now know that at least one copy escaped the net, and we must be thankful for it. Pilfold Medwin's elder brother, Thomas, had been a close companion (some might say hanger-on) of Shelley's during his European travels and elsewhere, and it may be that Shelley passed this copy over to Thomas, who in turn donated it to his brother when he came to live with him in Horsham in his last years, or perhaps Pilfold inherited it when Thomas died in 1869. Again maybe the author gave it directly to Pilfold on one of his earlier visits to Horsham, after his university expulsion and seeking funds from his family or from Thomas Charles Medwin, father of Thomas and Pilfold, head of the family firm and legal agent to the Shelley estate.

Whatever the circumstances behind Pilfold Medwin's ownership, another possibility is that the pamphlet left him in 1848, when he was forced to sell off his possessions in order to pay off a debt. Among other things, the sale notice



Percy Bysshe Shelley



Pilfold Medwin

listed his '*Library of nearly 600 elegantly bound Vols.*', which included works by Cowper, Goldsmith and Thompson, as well as '*a beautifully Illuminated Prayer Book*'. On the other hand the auctioneer may have thought little of the scrappy leaflet in such distinguished company, and it may have stayed with Medwin until his death in 1880.

Who knows what became of it after that. One thing is for sure: *Poetical Essay* has no protective binding, and the very fact that it has survived all means that it must have passed through the hands of a very few owners, and been placed on a limited number of shelves. We can only be thankful that this slender and unassuming pamphlet, unrecognised for so many years, has now emerged into the light of day; such things happen so rarely.

But perhaps there is another copy out there somewhere – so never let that nondescript bundle of documents in a dusty bookshop corner go by without a careful check. The very last in the pile could be it.

**My thanks to Professor Woudhuysen of University College, London, and to Donovan Rees of Bernard Quaritch for much helpful information.**



## God's Judgment against False Swearing: a rare Horsham chapbook

Old books about Horsham, with a few notable exceptions, are reasonably easy to get hold of – all you need is a bit of patience, persistence, and all too often a longish purse. But it is far harder to acquire pamphlets, broadsides and chapbooks of local interest, simply because such material was produced cheaply, sold cheaply and usually thrown away after a quick read. No pride of place on front parlour bookshelves for stuff like this; it was highly disposable and more likely to be recycled as pipe spills or a handy way to start a fire.

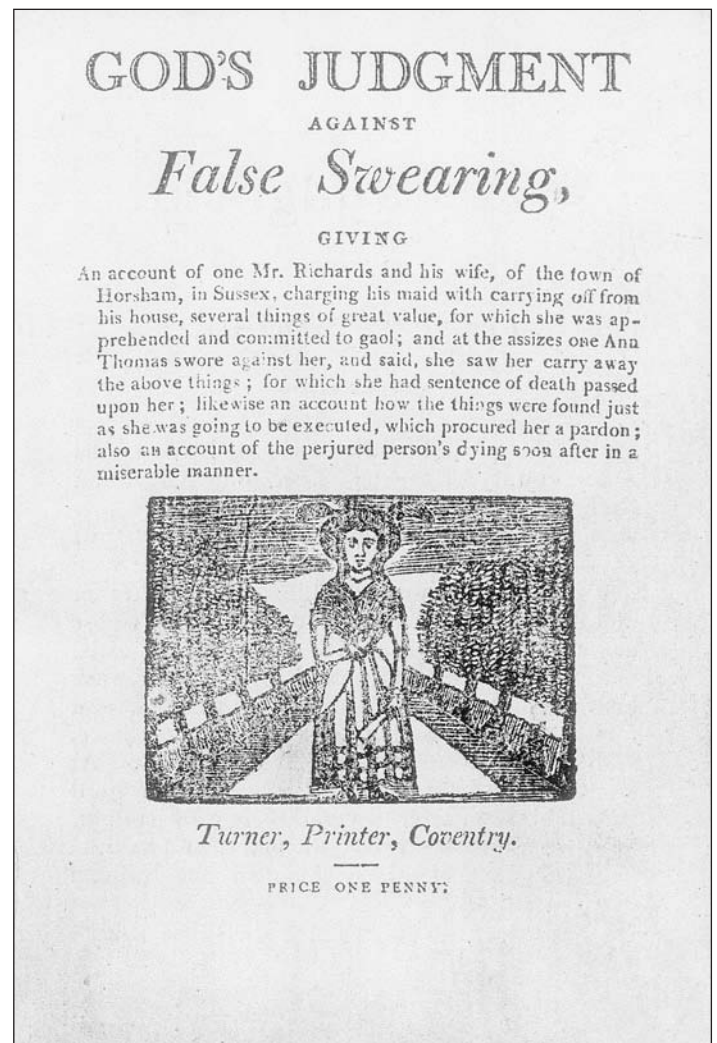
And so little has survived. But when one does come across a single-sheet broadside, perhaps recording a public hanging outside the old gaol by today's Iron Bridge, or a morality tale with a local angle in chapbook form, it really is a red letter day. And such a day happened to me recently, with the result that I am now the proud possessor of *God's Judgment against False Swearing*, eight very flimsy pages which tell a salutary tale, and provide a terrible warning to anyone who is tempted to deviate from the truth. The story is supposed to have taken place here in Horsham, and we will recount it in a moment, so that we can all be aware of the dire consequences of telling lies. But first of all, a little background.

Chapbooks were low cost publications, typically printed on a single sheet of poor quality paper and folded to make eight, sixteen or twenty-four pages. They were illustrated with crude woodcuts, which often bore no relation to the text, and they did not carry covers. As a genre they grew out of an earlier tradition of inexpensive ballad literature, and 17th – 19th century chapbooks (they began to disappear around 1860) took as their subject popular songs, poems, folk tales, stories 'with a message', political treatises and all other manner of material.

They were sold, of course, by chapmen, and their market was among the lower classes, where reading skills were limited, but beginning to develop. Chapmen – hawkers and pedlars who tended to be on the margins of respectability – bought their stock from London and provincial printers, and in turn sold their material, along with a variety of miscellaneous goods such as ribbons, laces and pins, door-to-door from display trays slung around their shoulders, or at street fairs and markets. Chapbooks were sold for 1d or less.

So, just like Smith, Baker and Carpenter, the surname Chapman has its origin in a trade. There is an obvious connection with the word 'cheap' (so cheapbook), but also a possible association with the Anglo-Saxon verb *ceapian*, which means to barter, buy and sell.

*God's Judgment* is typical of an early 19th century chapbook. It is embellished (if that is the right word) with four very crude woodcuts, only one of which seems to have any relevance to the text, and its price was the standard 1d. It was printed and sold by John Turner, who had an establishment in High Street, Coventry, and who worked between 1790-1840. Turner was known for such material, and also produced ballads and criminal and fantastical



broadsheets (*The Yarmouth Tragedy* was an example of his work). One judges this publication to have been printed around 1810 (and certainly not 1720, as William Albery thought in his *Millennium of Facts*), and two other printings of the same story are known, from Birmingham and London.

Now to the opening words of the story: *At the pleasant town of Horsham lived one Mr John Richards, a great merchant and shopkeeper, who sold all sorts of velvets, silks and satins, gold and silver lace of all sorts, and the very best goods that could be sold by any shopkeeper in England.* Richards and his wife had a maid, Jane Smith, who served in the shop and had lived with the family for some years, with never a hint of trouble. But one day two pieces of gold lace went missing, followed by several lengths of ribbon, and the worm of doubt began to wriggle in Richards's mind.

He challenged Jane, and accused her of passing the goods to a local man, William Baker, *who came a-courting*, and demanded that she pay for the missing items, or else she would end up in gaol, or worse. But Jane protested her innocence, and as yet John Richards had no proof. The next thing to happen was that Mrs

Richards arranged for a relative named Ann Thomas to move in with them, so that she could keep a watchful eye on the shop maid. Ann arrived on 6 March (a very specific detail, but no year is given), declaring *'I shall find her out, and will surely acquaint you with it'*.

A couple of days later Mrs Richards came into the shop and asked Ann for a basin of water to wash her hands. While she was fetching the water Mrs Richards slipped off her *fine diamond ring*, and placed it on the counter. She forgot to put it on again, and only noticed it was missing when she was back in the house. She hurried back and asked Jane where it was, but the latter denied all knowledge of its whereabouts. Mrs Richards insisted that *'it could not be gone without hands'* and said *'if you do not go and fetch it, I will send for a constable, and have you before a justice, and get you committed to the county gaol'*.

Ann Thomas then stepped in, and said *'you are a thieving hussey, you have the ring, and I swear I saw you take it up from the counter, but I do not know where you put it'*. Faced with this testimony, the authorities had little choice, and poor Jane was immediately committed to gaol.

Ann testified against her again at the next assizes, and this crucial witness led the jury to find her guilty. In the way of the times there was only one sentence, and the judge ruled that she should be hanged. While in prison awaiting her fate, Jane was visited by the Rev Mr Layman, who tried to get her to confess her sins, in particular the one she was going to die for. But Jane stuck to her guns, and insisted that she was *as innocent as the child unborn*.

Then a critical piece of information came to light, on the very day before Jane was due to be executed. A certain Thomas Pew, who lived opposite the Richards's house, observed the latter's pet raven, which often used to be in the shop, fly from the premises to the nearby *abbey church* with a piece of red ribbon in its beak, and *there behind a large image he saw him go into the hole in the wall, and leaving the ribbon there returned back again*. (Why had the raven factor not been considered before, you may well ask. But this kind of story doesn't warrant too close an examination).

Pew was quick to tell John Richards what he had witnessed, but the latter found it difficult to believe that Ann Thomas must have been lying. So a group of people, including Pew and Richards, straightaway went round to the church to see for themselves. Apparently the 'image' was positioned high up at the front of the building, and in order to examine things thoroughly they *all went upon the top of the church, and by the help of ropes they let down*

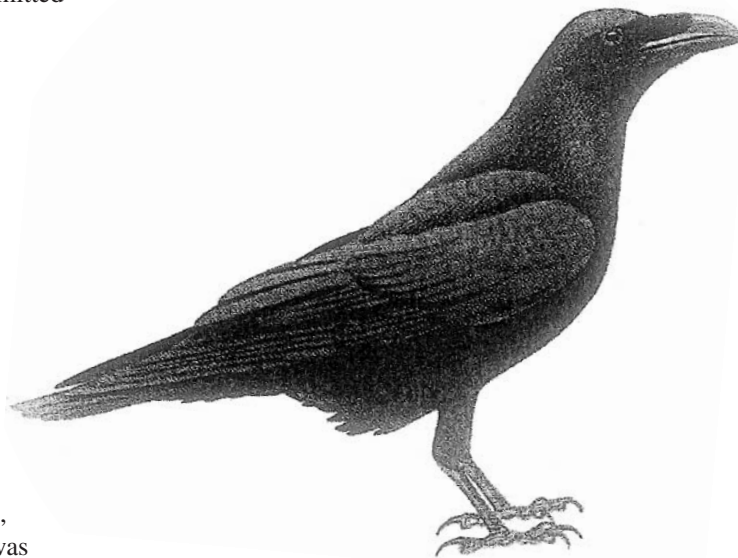
*a man in a basket, behind the image, who found several pieces of gold and silver lace, two silver spoons, the diamond ring and a great many pieces of ribbon &c to the value of above seventy pounds.*

Soon afterwards the sheriff and his men came to collect Jane, and despite being briefed about the new information that had come to light, he insisted that he had a warrant to fulfill, and she would have to be taken to the place of execution. The man had a job to do, and that was that. And so off she went, *and before her went thirty young men, singing the lamentation of a sinner*.

But then the sheriff suddenly saw sense (thank goodness), and the story ends as follows: *There were abundance of tears shed at the gallows, and as she was at prayers on the ladder, with the rope fixed about her neck, and she stood trembling, to her great surprise she was ordered by the sheriff to dismount the ladder, telling her that he hoped to get her a reprieve; at which she fainted away. She was brought back to prison, and let blood immediately, and in eight days after came down a free pardon for her.*

*Her master was ordered to pay her ten pounds a year, during life; and Ann Thomas, that swore so falsely against her, was found dead on a dung hill, two days after, whose death it is hoped will be an example to false swearers.*

So there we have it – a warning to us all.



Guilty

### Final note

The big question must be – is there a single grain of truth in this tale, as it relates to Horsham? Sadly, the answer is probably not. True, the town had an assizes, and a county gaol and execution site. But the business about the abbey is clearly off beam, and I have been unable to trace any of the names, which apart from the minister's are all very ordinary, which in itself is a bit odd/unlikely. There is no record in the parish registers (1790-1840) of the burial of an Ann Thomas either. So presumably the anonymous author decided to give his story a reality gloss by locating it in a specific place – and for some reason he hit upon our town.

It is unlikely he was a Horshamite, as he would not have introduced the bit about the image and the abbey if he was. But on the other hand if anyone comes across a Rev Layman or a shop keeper called John Richards it would be good to hear about it. All I have turned up so far is a William and Elizabeth Layman, who had a daughter Elizabeth who was baptised in Horsham in the mid-1750s, but that doesn't take us very far.

**Brian Slyfield**



# Letters to the Editor

## Notice to correspondents

We are pleased to give reasonable space for the free discussion of all matters of public interest, but it must be distinctly understood by correspondents that any personal reflections will be eliminated.

Editor of the West Sussex County Times  
(3 March 1894) in a note to his readers.

## Could Poundbury have tamed our Black Horse?

In the August issue of the Newsletter Martin Andrews bravely makes a few suggestions about Black Horse Way. Usually when a central street in a town is being redeveloped there are physical restrictions upon what can be done. Here those restraints were reduced because the site was largely cleared to the southern side. Yet, as Martin says: 'this road just does not work as a major approach to the town'. This has indeed been a wasted opportunity. The eastern half of the street looks quite presentable while the western, the area people arriving at the bus station see first, is forbidding with the overshadowing car park on one side and the waste bins amid the delivery bays on the other. It is an unfortunate example of what can happen when the joints between developments are not thought through.

In the same issue Oliver Palmer gives us his views on Poundbury after our visit there in May. He asks whether this new suburb scheme has any lessons for us and wisely says the layout is instructive while the buildings are artificial. If our town planners had made a brief trip to Dorset and drawn the same conclusion, then Black Horse Way might not be the confusion it is.

The whole idea of Poundbury was decried when it was mooted over fifteen years ago. Prince Charles was vilified for his whimsical views back in 1989 when he published his ideas on architecture in *A Vision of Britain*. (Was Britain – all of it – to be redeveloped in this theme park fashion, however sound its environmental virtues?) Time has moved on, and much of the revisionist retro look of today's post-Modernist world does indeed pick up some of these once reviled elements. Other suburbs on the same principles as Poundbury are currently in progress in Northampton (Upton) and Ipswich (Ravenswood).

A volume entitled *Architects Today* published in 2004 comments on Leon Krier, the architect of Poundbury: 'Krier may appear doomed to failure in his war with the moderns but he has had more influence than he thinks, with contemporary architects increasingly willing to look at traditional morphologies in their planning even as they reject a historicist vocabulary for their buildings'. Exactly Oliver Palmer's point.

All architecture has to work from the past and give contemporary expression to the solutions proposed for the permanent problems of designed space. To give up on inventiveness and rely on remodelling past solutions in form and style is to abandon the art in architecture. To his credit, Krier has said that he could design a Poundbury but use the building forms of Le Corbusier or even Zaha Hadid.

No doubt he could. But I doubt if Horsham would give him the chance.

Oliver Farley  
Denne Road, Horsham

## Blue Flash Music Trust

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the article about Robert Hurst (August issue), which we found very useful, together with the WSCT article about Park House. They were both helpful in preparing a thousand word article about the Trust, its foundation, purpose and history so far. Annette Bridgeford, the editor of a magazine for the armed forces, discovered our website, and because of our connection with the Royal Sussex Regiment has invited us to write the article. She was also interested in our efforts to make the art of music making more readily available.

This has given us the chance to tell the story of the Trust, which has been greatly inspired by local history, the work of the Royal Sussex Regiment in creating the Blue Flash Association and the building of the Capitol Theatre in 1923 and the wonderful and enigmatic Horsham Town Hall, which Robert Hurst had rebuilt in 1888.

The Hurst family were great friends of the Broadwood family, and the inspirational Lucy Broadwood, a classically trained pianist who, influenced by her grandfather, began to see the need to put together a collection of English songs. She, along with Vaughan Williams, Cecil Sharpe and others, was instrumental in setting up the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Then there is the unknown architect who designed the hall in the shape of the traditional shoebox auditorium, passing on to future generations the great gift of superb acoustics. As a patron of the arts Robert Hurst must have had all this very much in mind.

In fact, it feels as though, through the Horsham Town Hall, past generations are speaking to us via the medium of the building – a legacy we should be using more fully. The world of the Victorians was a different one to ours, but their voices could do with being listened to in an increasingly chaotic world.

Robert Mayfield  
Blue Flash Music Trust  
PO Box 616, Horsham

## Parking sign victory - eventually

The two pictures in the August issue of the Horsham Society Newsletter prompted me to look up similar ones I took two years ago in north London.

I received a penalty notice for parking under sign A, Haringey council taking a view similar to the one you mention. After protracted correspondence in which 'they' tied themselves into contradictory knots I found out that the sign had been replaced by sign B. Their last letter which continued to insist that I was guilty was even written after the new sign had been erected. Both pictures are of the same post. My payment was eventually repaid.



Sign A



Sign B

I shall watch out for new signs in Horsham following Peter Lusher's exposure of official nonsense.

Michael Fadil  
North Parade, Horsham

## Kathleen Sainsbury

We were most sorry to hear that Kathleen Sainsbury has died. Kath was a long-standing member of the Horsham Society, and was involved in much else locally. Among other things she was a fund of knowledge on our town bands, with a most interesting archive of material, and also had many stories to tell about the old days. Notably, she was William Albery's assistant in the production of his *A Millennium of Facts in the History of Horsham and Sussex*, and both author and assistant were celebrated in the July 2004 issue of the Newsletter. Our condolences go to family and friends.

## Wind turbines

The Society made a formal objection to the proposal to erect a 15 metre high wind turbine in the grounds of Forest School because of the visual intrusion and noise within a residential area. We are sure that the controversial issue of wind turbines is going to grow in importance (see WSCT 8 September, for example), and have therefore invited the Council's Planning Committee to agree a policy, particularly as regards domestic and medium sized turbines. We have suggested a policy based on the presumption that no turbines are acceptable in a residential area, but that both domestic and medium sized turbines could be acceptable in an industrial area, and that large turbines (but not wind farms) might be acceptable but only on a case-by-case basis.

## The National Trust's North Sussex Centre

The centre will resume its new series of winter lectures for 2006-7 on Thursdays at the Wesley Hall, London Road, Horsham commencing on 5 October and thereafter on 9 November, 7 December, 11 January, 8 February and 15 March.

We are a friendly group and if you are a member of The National Trust and would like to join us you would be most welcome. Further details can be obtained from our local chairman Belinda Kelly on 01403 264599 or from the secretary Carolyn Smith on 01403 255253. Why not give them a call!

## The good life?

Did you read about the Halifax Home Insurance 'quality of life' survey recently? When you next have to make a detour round the Carfax on a Saturday night to avoid drunken yobs, or are forced to negotiate an increased overdraft in order to afford the town's parking charges, console yourself with the fact that Horsham is in the top twelve local authorities (12th as it happens, but still pretty good) on a quality of life ranking - based on factors such as employment, earnings, housing quality and prices, weather, traffic flows, crime, education and health. Apparently nowhere else in Sussex can touch us.

## The Human Cannonball

*The Human Cannonball* is the first in a series of seven fantastic adventures written by Robert Mayfield (Society member and keen Town Hall campaigner) and illustrated by John Wakefield. They feature a 'gang of five' which zooms off on a number of strange adventures, and there are plenty of local references. Even the kindly ghost of Dan Roberts, said to haunt Horsham Town Hall, which he once looked after, appears in one of the stories.

Books can be obtained from Flying Castle Publications, PO Box 616, Horsham RH12 1YW.

## By The Way

### New members

A warm welcome to the following new members: Mr and Mrs Short, Fulfords Road, Itchingfield; Mr Sugden, Fernhurst Close, Horsham; Mr Spiers, North Heath Lane, Horsham; Mr and Mrs Westcott, Foxes Close, Southwater; Mrs Carter, Hills Place, Horsham; Mr and Mrs Meinertzhagen, Warnham Road, Broadbridge Heath.

### OCA

The Old Collyerians' Association is flourishing, with members from the old grammar school days as well as today's college. There must be a good few Society members who are candidates for membership, so do join. The annual subscription is a very modest £2 (even less than the Horsham Society's!) so in order to link up with old school or college friends contact **Mark Collins, 4 Stallett Way, The Limes, Tilney St Lawrence, King's Lynn PE34 4RQ.**

What do you get for your money? Among other things, a twice-yearly newsletter, updated membership contact lists, and the chance to be part of the annual summer reunion and pre-Christmas dinner. The latter are both great fun, and this year's dinner is on **Saturday 18 November**. Membership is a bargain - unbeatable value. Do join now.



The Horsham Society is an independent body supported by members' subscriptions, a registered charity (No.268949), affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England and registered with the Civic Trust. It is a member of the English Historic Towns Forum.

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Oliver Palmer, Francis Maude MP, Nigel Friswell

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#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

**Individuals:** £5 per year      **Single Pensioner:** £3.25 per year  
**Family Membership:** £7.50 per year      **Family Pensioner:** £5 per year  
**Businesses:** £10 per year      **Single Life Membership:** £100  
**Family Life Membership:** £150

£2.50 postage is added to the above rates for out-of-town members

All correspondence should go to the Hon Secretary in the first instance. The Newsletter is published monthly except for August. Letters and articles to be considered for publication should be sent to the Editor, Brian Slyfield, Arun House, Denne Road, Horsham RH12 1JF. Opinions in the Newsletter, whether Editor's or contributors', are not necessarily the policy of the Society.



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