

FED UP WITH JUNK MAIL? ACT NOW! CALL 08457 950 950

IF YOU like nothing more than wading through piles of brightly coloured bumph of a morning, or opening those infuriating unaddressed envelopes, hoping for something magic inside, don't read on. But on the other hand if the increasing amount of unsolicited rubbish the postman shoves through your door drives you mad, decide now to do something about it.

Roger Annes was a postman from Barry, South Wales, who helpfully told his customers how to opt out of junk mail if they so wished. Most people hailed him as a hero, but Royal Mail took an entirely different view and removed him from his round, giving him an indoor sorting office job instead. The organisation is keen to increase this source of revenue (never mind what customers think), but Postwatch, the consumer watchdog, claims that Royal Mail has failed to give people enough information on how to opt out. The Door-to-Door Opt Out service changed its address several times and was not advertised anywhere; no details could be found during a search of the company's website. Royal Mail didn't make it easy.

The whole business has been a massive PR failure for Royal Mail. And here in Horsham tediously long queues at the Carfax post office are the norm; waiting customers are faced with displays of tatty cheapskate goods – rubbishy music, horrid little umbrellas and the like. What's all this to do with buying stamps and posting letters? Someone needs to get a grip.

But Royal Mail has been galvanised by all the adverse publicity into making a better fist of promoting its opt out service. So if you have had enough of the rising tide of junk mail, make a careful note of the following. If you want to opt out of receiving unaddressed material ring 08457 950 950, go to e-mail optout@royalmail.com, or write to Door to Door Opt Outs, Royal Mail, Kingsmead House, Oxpens Road, Oxford OX1 1RX. If you wish to avoid receiving addressed junk mail contact the Mail Preference Service on 0845 703 4599. Registration for this service can also be carried out online on www.mpsonline.org.uk.

GOOD LUCK!

Junk mail facts and figures

- 3.4 billion letters a year are sent out
- 750 million go straight in the bin
- the cost of production and mailing is £1.8 billion a year
- among the top 5 junk mailers are Lloyds-TSB and Saga Services

source: Marketing magazine and Nielsen Media Research

1,166 members

The Society now has 1,166 members. From time to time we lose some, either because of Old Father Time or perhaps a move out of Horsham, but it's good to know that, overall, we gain more and that the growth rate is steady - for example nearly 300 people have joined since January 2003. It is also gratifying to see how many members there are from other parts of the country, no doubt using the Newsletter as a way of keeping in touch.

So thank you all for being part of the Society. The committee is always keen to hear your views; please do write in - and if you can persuade a friend or neighbour to join up as well, so much the better.

Editor's note

Oliver Farley contributes a thought-provoking appraisal of the town's architecture this month, and I recommend it to readers. As usual there's an update on various current planning issues, and we also take a look at a family which did much to benefit the town. Copy date for the December issue is 3 November.



For the story behind the name see page 77.

From the Committee

Dulcima House

The Society has objected to the fact that the finish applied to the conversion of the offices above Halifax in the Carfax was inappropriate and not what had been suggested by the plans approved by the Council. A subsequent retrospective planning application was refused. Ideally, we want to see the face of the building returned as near as possible to its original state but until the cladding is removed it is difficult to assess how much damage may have been inflicted on the brickwork. The up-to-date position is that a 'letter before action' has been issued and the stipulated time limit has expired. The next stage is for the Council to commence enforcement action.

David Holmes at committee

As part of its policy to discuss issues of the day with a range of interested parties, Councillor David Holmes was invited to attend the October committee meeting. There was a productive exchange of views, and David made a number of useful points on several planning matters. He believed, for example, that a Design Statement for the town (something the Society is actively developing – see this page) was 'absolutely vital', in that it would provide the Council with important additional criteria when assessing planning applications.

Causeway

Members may recall that there has been a long-standing plan to upgrade the northern end of the Causeway, including the island and the area outside the Museum, utilising funding provided by the developers of the Manor House site. The Society objected to the original plans, which were far too fussy and inappropriate. We had thought that a new design had been agreed involving local residents and work would proceed shortly. However we have now heard from Tom Crowley, HDC's Chief Executive, that as a result of concerns expressed by Denne Neighbourhood Council fresh proposals will be presented for consultation once issues of affordability have been resolved.

Town Hall

The handling of the future of the Town Hall has been less than smooth, and has left many people unhappy. In among the various points that the Society has made to the Council recently, one specific is worth mentioning. In a letter from Society Chairman John Steele to HDC's Chief Executive the point was made that 'we have heard suggestions that local organisations find it difficult to book the Town Hall, particularly at weekends, because of pre-booked tool sales etc. Whether or not this is true we suggest that the new marketing strategy should be aimed first at the local organisations that have expressed an interest in using the facilities during the protracted debate on the future of the Town Hall. In other words, give local groups priority for bookings within a controlled and clearly understood framework. Rental levels will clearly be a factor and we would rather see a well used, vibrant Town Hall with some subsidy for local groups than a succession of tool sales which do nothing to enhance the image of the town or contribute to community life'.

Planning

We have been very involved in preparing for the Public Examination of the Core Strategy of the Council's Local Development Framework which started at the beginning of September. The Society submitted five statements of evidence amplifying the objections we made to the Core Strategy during the consultation phase last year and have attended hearings to answer the Inspectors' questions and expand further as necessary. Copies of the statements can be viewed on the Society's web site, and a full report on the way things have gone so far will appear in next month's issue.

We have also begun work with the Neighbourhood Councils to prepare a Town Design Statement which will hopefully be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document. Design Statements vary in content but broadly they identify the character of the built environment particular to an area and provide guidance on the implications for future development and design. Within Horsham District there are already a number of Village Design Statements but it is a much bigger task to write one for the town as a whole because it needs to reflect the unique characteristics of a variety of different periods and styles. Fortunately we have the excellent Appraisals prepared by the Neighbourhood Councils to draw on, and some of the most critical areas are already included within conservation areas. The Society itself has also produced a map identifying areas of special character on which we hope to consult shortly. Nevertheless we expect this work to occupy much of our time over the next few months. JS

Wind turbines

The issue of wind turbines is a complex one, and there should be no automatic blanket assumption that they are 'a good thing'. They are not necessarily a panacea for all energy ills, and their drawbacks as well as their merits need to be considered. In order to facilitate understanding the Society is in the process of preparing a paper, setting out the arguments; it will be ready shortly and will be presented to the Council and published in the Newsletter for review by members.

Causeway grass

One member has already drawn our attention (see last issue) to the damage being created to the Causeway grass by pedestrians crossing it by the easiest route. The committee is proposing to the Council that this 'desire line' is converted into a recognised path, which should be paved with Horsham stone, as are the nearby pavements.

It's 'Town Hall'

There's a disturbing trend to add the prefix 'Old' when talking about our Town Hall these days. It should be resisted at all costs. For one reason there is no new Town Hall, in the traditional sense of the term, and we mustn't refer to the place as if it has been written off (even though some councillors seem to want to turn it into yet another restaurant). It is alive and kicking, and for the townpeople's use. Don't talk about it as if it has been consigned to history. It's our Town Hall, for today and tomorrow.

Review: *Sussex Stones* by Roger Birch

It's a pleasure to review a local book with a new angle. At the last count, for example, I had a shelf full of no less than ten or old pictures and postcards of the Horsham area. They are all interesting enough, but it does get a bit much. So it's good to read *Sussex Stones*, which provides a fascinating account of the geology round about, a subject that has not been treated in this way before; this book does so in an accessible and informative manner.

Roger Birch teaches geology at Collyer's and also lectures at Sussex University, so he knows his stuff. But his approach is far from dry and academic, and as such should appeal to a wide audience. The author takes as his subject the geological background to our much loved Horsham Stone, and also to Sussex Marble. The former can be seen on many roofs in the Carfax and the Causeway, and the latter in local churches (for example the Rudgwick church font).



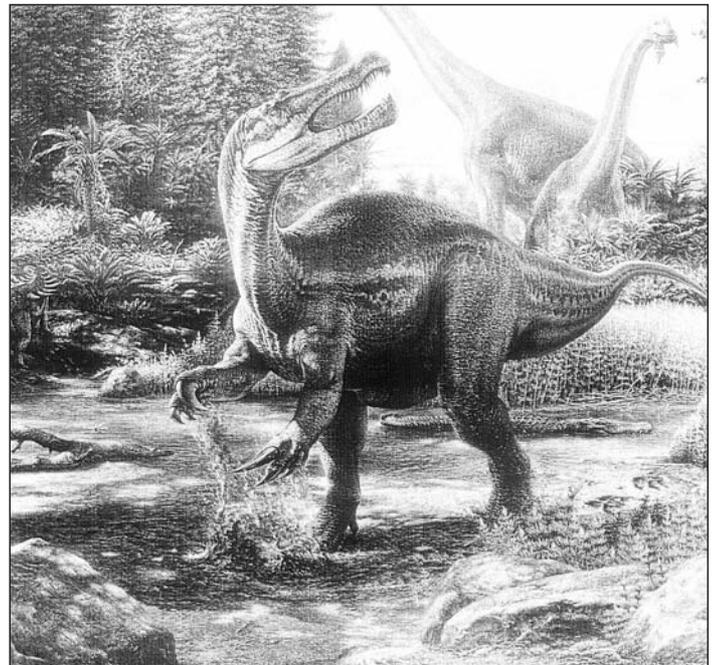
Slab of rippled Horsham stone.

He tells of the origin of the rocks found around Horsham, belonging to the Cretaceous period – which ran between 130 million and 65 million years ago. A number of brick companies near Horsham, Ockley and Cranleigh still have working pits, and fossils and geological samples collected from these sites have helped geologists to reconstruct the palaeography of the Lower Cretaceous period. One famous local brick pit, Smokejack Quarry at Ockley, yielded a large 'claw', which was discovered by local amateur geologist William Walker in 1983. This was recognised as one of the most important dinosaur discoveries of the last century, and was named *Baryonyx walkeri* after its discoverer. *Baryonyx* roamed across the Wealden swamps using its long, powerful claws to catch large freshwater fish, and its teeth were straight, rounded and blade-like with minute serrations along the front and back edges, very like those of modern crocodiles.

The author covers a lot of ground, and among other things explains the rippled effects which can be seen in some Horsham stone, famous for their many beautiful and intricate marks. Look at the ripples in the paving stones in the Causeway and the Normandy, for example. The variety of patterns is caused by the action of ancient water currents; apparently these stones were particularly prized for their 'anti-slip' properties, and were described in the eighteenth century as 'furrowed and wrinkled surfaces that are ideal for paving and pathways'.

There is much more in Roger Birch's book. It is packed with information and is highly graphic, with first class illustrations, which are a great aid to understanding the sometimes complex data. It is a book that can be dipped into, or read straight off, and is highly recommended to anyone wanting to gain an understanding of how our local topography was formed.

BS



Baryonyx walkeri (reproduced by kind permission of J. Sibbick)

Sussex Stones: price £11.99 and available from Waterstone's (Ottaker's that was) ISBN 0-9551259-0-1

More on signs

There's been some discussion on the often witless approach to local signs in the last two issues. Here's another contribution. Along the path that connects the Causeway to the Forum area yet another admonition has been stuck up (Sign A). Visually it's a right mess, and warns you not to do anything except walk. Presumably this means motorised buggies are banned as well. Whatever the rights and wrongs of this latest prohibition, the folk in charge of such matters haven't had the good sense to read other signs currently in place.

At each end of the path (Sign B) cyclists are also told to dismount – but if they can't ride along the path this is now an irrelevant order. So does the 'Give Way' triangular sign now mean that pedestrians have to stop in favour of speedy walkers charging down from Black Horse Way? And does the ban on cyclists mean that the ugly barrier at the Causeway end can be scrapped, as there won't be any cyclists to worry about? And does this mean that buggies will now be able to get through?

One can have endless childish fun with the dislocated thinking that characterises authority's approach to matters such as this. But the serious point is that we are now in the grip of a sign epidemic, and it doesn't help when, within the space of a few yards, a cluster contradicts itself.



Sign A



Sign B

Joints and Links

Previous editions of the Horsham Society's Newsletter have carried interesting and contrasting comments upon the town's latest architectural additions. With these newcomers in mind, I took the opportunity of the visit of an architect cousin of mine to steer him around the inner town and exchange views on the developments. It's always instructive to hear the opinions of someone who is professionally informed on a subject but not directly involved with the project in question.

We strolled through the Forum, walked down to St Mary's church to see the added meeting room, and later viewed the Capitol. The main difficulty which struck us was that of connecting the additions to the existing structures. My visitor had the advantage over me of being unfamiliar with the town, its problems and the previous structures on these sites. He could see the buildings with an unbiased eye and appreciate their present appearance and fulfilment of purpose, without being influenced by what had gone before. The addition to the church seemed to sum up a good deal of what we both felt about much of the new development, namely that it is an interesting and well built structure in itself but it lacks cohesion with the building it adjoins. The materials are well chosen and the building looks a solid and well considered work. Yet it clashes with the church it serves. If it could have been placed at a discreet distance from the older building, linked to it by a covered passageway perhaps, then the two could have stood their ground with visual independence. As they are now, they contrast too strongly with each other, and the newer building will not weather into a maturer relationship with the church because the materials are too distinctive. We agreed we both liked the shape, the appearance and the blend of roofing and stone, though we remained of our first opinion that it is the juxtaposition which causes a visual jolt.

The same holds true to a lesser extent of the Capitol. From the outside, it appears to be a modern building, very much in the style of today's ideas, glass expanses, frameworks, flat or unobtrusive roofing and not always a clear distinction between inside and out. The seating area at the front, for example, gives high visibility to customers sat in the foyer; to the passing traffic they are highlighted and appear almost to be in the open, brightly lit by night and sharply visible by day through the transparent walls. Penetrating further into the building yields the surprise Art Deco interior, not at all expected from the outside and the viewer is little prepared for the change. At this point the plan is suddenly clear and the solid wall backing the glass box exterior is explained: this is a made-over building, a modern frame set upon a 1930s cinema exterior to facelift it into the 21st century. In this respect it is not unlike all those houses in the Causeway which, as Annabelle Hughes patiently explained to us once, have Georgian or other exteriors fitted onto much older

structures. The same has been done to the Arts Centre and the joins show.

Joins were also in question when we viewed the Forum. How does this connect to the existing town? Not very well, was the agreed view. The site is scrappy around the edges and the link to the main existing shopping street is a single tenuous passageway at the centre, which is cut by a two way road, and less obvious links around the eastern and western ends. The bus station sits uneasily at one entry point to the Forum but it too is cut off by Black Horse Way and it equally makes no concessions in style to the library and even less to the charming cottages lining Worthing Road. The elevated Forum site commands the car park at the southern side which is not screened from view in the piazza area in front of the shops. This area itself is too open and has no feeling of inviting people to linger; there is no sense of linked rooms, as it were. (One minor but telling point is that the benches are convex, discouraging casual assembly for conversation by users because they angle sitters away from each other.) There does not appear to be any clear logic as to how this assemblage of shops and flats is sited to exploit a natural flow of users. In short, it looks as if too much of the planning on this site took place without reference to integrating it into the existing structures and roadways. The use of bold colour pleased us both, as did the varied frontage of the flats with alterations to the extent they project towards the piazza space. Some small points may need attention. A notorious problem with buildings of this description is that of rain streaking the exteriors – just think of the South Bank's shuttered concrete – and some of that staining is visible already on the Forum. The drainage in the passageway to West Street seems to lead roof water to ground level and then abandon it to find its own way to the drains. These may be small details but if the main access passage is frequently and unpleasantly flooded with winter rain, that will lessen the already weak incentives to commute from one shopping area to another.

In sum, the town itself looked rather impressive with its obvious historic appeal and these newer buildings inserted. The main disquiet was over the lack of cohesion, a lack that seems to have arisen or have been exaggerated by inattention to the entirety of the projects at the conceptual stage.

Over time, perhaps these impressions will be superseded; usage and minor alterations may give the total a better feeling of completion. For the present, the newness of it all is still too apparent, though that adds interest to the landscape. The question of the success of the additions remains one of reserved judgement as yet.

Oliver Farley



St. Mary's extension.



The Capitol.

Edward Allcard and his family: generous town benefactors

by Brian Slyfield

The Allcards, although not a local family, were once prominent in the town, but it is likely that only older residents will remember the name. Edward Allcard was a successful London stockbroker, who on his retirement in 1883 came to live here with his wife and children. A previous address had been Park Gate House, Ham Common. They lived at Wimblehurst, a house long forgotten as well. It stood in its grounds (which were first tended by head gardener Mr C W Ricketts, and later – from at least 1889 – by Thomas Sparkes, the top man in Horsham at the time), by the junction of Parsonage and Wimblehurst Roads, opposite today's Novartis. The house had an elaborate design and was of substantial size. It had a grand conservatory and an equally grand ballroom, and boasted a stylish Italianate tower. But surrounded by many trees, it was one of Horsham's less well known houses, and the views of it published with this article have not been in general circulation before.

The 1869 *Stranger's Guide to Horsham* records J Braby at Wimblehurst, but shortly before the Allcards' arrival an 1881 street directory records Henry Padwick JP as being in residence, and the property transfer from him to Edward Allcard was dated 24 August 1883. All that is left now is the lodge (Wimblehurst Lodge), and the gardener's cottage further down North Heath Lane (now known as Flagstones) – but the family name is still celebrated in nearby Allcard Close. Like so many nineteenth century houses in this part of Horsham, surrounded by generous plots of land, it proved a tempting prize for the developer, and was demolished during that flurry of activity in the late 1950s-1960s, to be replaced by many, more compact homes. A scheme by a member of the family to convert the main house to luxury apartments came to nothing – an idea before its time.

Edward, born in 1821, was the son of John Allcard, from near Bakewell, Derbyshire, and he was a partner in the firm of Sheppard, Pelly and Co. He and his wife Frances had one son, Edward Julius, and three daughters, Edith (the eldest), Ada and Ethel (the youngest, born 18 November 1863). In December 1883 at St Mary's, Horsham, Ada married the splendidly (and coincidentally) named Julius August Bernard Ludwig von Hartmann, an officer in the Prussian Army and the son of General von Hartmann.

Mr and Mrs Allcard, and their daughter Ethel in particular (who lived on in the family house after the death of her parents until her own death on 28 December 1953, aged 90), did a tremendous amount of good in the town, and they were generous sponsors of many a cause. Of Edward Allcard it was said that he was 'never otherwise than ready with money when it was required'. He took a close interest in church missionary work, and on the political front was a council member of the Conservative Primrose League. (As a detail, in the 1885 polling register for the North-Western or Horsham Division his voting number was W211).

He was also a moving force behind the establishment of the Parish Room in the Causeway in 1888 (see John Bray's drawing on page 80; it is now a private house), and was the chairman of its building committee. Ever generous, he personally covered a deficit of £67 in its accounts, and declared that he had done so in memory of the late Colonel Aldridge of St Leonards (who had died prematurely and had been closely associated with the



Above: A drawing of Wimblehurst dated 1885: courtesy Jod and Dee Arnold.
Below: An aerial view of Wimblehurst and grounds: courtesy Helen Richardson.



project), and in honour of Rev Bickersteth Ottley, who had recently left Horsham. There was a grand opening ceremony on 19 April, preceded by a service in St Marys and a procession from the church to the room, led by the choir singing *The Church's One Foundation*.

The new building was described as being 'in a style of architecture known as Ancient Domestic' and its lighting was 'gained by the use of Sugg's principle of gas lighting, three burners merging into one light'. The land had been donated by Henry Padwick, on condition that the building on it was used 'for purposes connected with the Church of England, for Bible classes, Sunday School purposes, Night Schools and a parochial Library'. There were many fine speeches, and Edward Allcard thanked the committee for all its hard work, and reassured the gathering that he would be happy to supplement the building fund.

The Misses Allcard were also active in local affairs. Edith Allcard was secretary of the Horsham Choral Society, and she also played a leading part in the Girls' Friendly Society movement. This serious and worthy Church of England organisation, so typical of the time, met for Bible classes (sometimes in Arun Lodge), busied itself with activities thought to be suitable for young ladies, and got involved with 'work for the poor'. Its 1891 Annual Festival was held at Strood Park (now Farlington) on 9 July, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Strachan, and no less than 180



Gardener's cottage c.1900 with Amy and Frederick Sparkes: courtesy Helen Richardson.

members gathered 'to amuse themselves in the hay field and in the beautiful garden and grounds'. Many prizes were distributed, and Fanny Mears and Esther Philpott, both from Nuthurst, did well in the Diocesan needlework competition. Eliza Sterling and Jane Burdfield, from Horsham and Itchingfield, were declared to be Elder Members, but let the side down by not turning up to receive their badges.

Edith was the branch secretary, and Mrs Ruspini had come down from London to give a short address. 'Mingling anecdotes with serious words of counsel' she likened the Society to 'a tree, with its boughs, branches, twigs etc dependent on each other, thus teaching the lesson that on every member depends the well-being of the Society'. The day ended at 7 pm with the Society hymn, and the girls were all encouraged to write an essay, with a prize in each parish for the best account of what Mrs Ruspini had said: all essays to be in by 9 August.

The Society did much good work, and in 1890 contributed to the costs of a break in the country for three less privileged London girls. Mary Ann Ward worked in a bookbinders and Beatrice Hooker as a collar maker 'in a kind of factory'. They were both delicate, and benefitted greatly from the change of air. Annie Wiseman was confined to a wheelchair, and the Horsham break did her so much good that she was able to walk into the town and back before she left. Society members took her out in her wheelchair for trips as far as the Forest, and she had a happy time in their company. The poor girl was an orphan, and because of her lameness could not cope with domestic duties. But she was adept at needlework, and the Society was anxious to find her a position as a sewing maid.

Another Allcard initiative was the Horsham Young Men's Institute, of which Edward was the first president. It was opened by his wife and him on 6 May 1891, and was thought to fulfil a long-awaited need. Presumably it offered Horsham's youth a more virtuous alternative to propping up bars in the town's beer houses. It was kitted out with books and magazines, and draughts, whist, halma and chess could be played – and there was, of course, a billiards table. The Allcard daughters provided musical entertainment and 'a capital tea' for everyone on the opening night, and Mr RH Hurst declared that it was just what was wanted in Horsham – indeed the membership had already reached 150.

But the family's most important work centred around the establishment of the town's Cottage Hospital, the planning of which had started in 1890. Edward Allcard was a member of the committee that set itself the task of raising enough money to build this important and much-needed facility, and things really

got underway when Mr Hurst offered a suitable site in Hurst Road, opposite the end of Richmond Road. Controlled by an able management team, the project moved ahead, and Mrs Allcard later joined a ladies' committee, designed to oversee the hospital's more domestic affairs. On 2 July 1892 the building was formally opened by its president CT Lucas of Warnham Park.

As ever, the Allcards helped out with money, and financed the gift of a 'revolving shelter' for the hospital garden. In 1901 the cost of alterations and additions was again paid for by them, this time in memory of Edward Allcard, who had died a year earlier, suddenly at home aged 79, and in Frank Holmes' booklet *Horsham Cottage Hospital* there is a facsimile of a letter from Ethel Allcard dated 1907, promising yet more money – this time to cover building costs for increased accommodation.

An amusing story has been passed down from George Lee, Ethel Allcard's chauffeur and general factotum, relating to her father's time. Apparently, and for some unknown reason, he was dismayed to see in the far distance the Lucas family's Warnham Court tower from his own tower at Wimblehurst, and so devised a plan to obstruct the view. He planted a copse in the middle of the field across the road, roughly where Woodstock Close now is, and older residents will no doubt remember it – before the houses came, that is.

Ethel lost her mother in 1905, at the age of 82, and her sister Edith had died relatively young. But she lived on as the mistress of Wimblehurst, a house with the wonderful distinction of a single digit telephone number – when ringing Miss Allcard you just asked the exchange for 'Horsham 2' (who was Horsham 1?) She had been secretary of the Horsham District Nursing Association for a long spell, from 1907-1942, and was also something of a sportswoman. She and her brother were both keen archers, and competed all over Sussex, and they also enjoyed salmon fishing and yachting. Edward Allcard, one of her great nephews, was also a prominent sailor (and the author of three books), and became famous in 1949 for his 80-day solo crossing of the Atlantic, from England to New York, in his 34-foot yawl *Temptress*.



Probably Edward Julius Allcard and his wife: courtesy Jod and Dee Arnold.

A tablet, in appreciation of the family's generosity over the years, and as a memorial to Frances and Edith Allcard, was placed in the hallway of Horsham Hospital. Ethel continued to take a close interest in hospital affairs, and when, in 1923, the Cottage Hospital was closed down and a new one built on an adjacent site (it was formally opened on 1 June by Lord Leconfield) she and her brother paid for the furnishings of a ward – which was duly named, of course, the Allcard Ward. She regularly paid visits to the hospital wards, and my father, as an eight year old patient in the 1920s, well remembers the good Miss Allcard on her rounds.

Many thanks to Helen Richardson, great granddaughter of Thomas Sparkes, Jod and Dee Arnold, and Lawrence and Elisabeth Windwood - all for much helpful information and the invaluable pictures of Wimblehurst.

Letters to the Editor

Do please write in: letters for publication to Brian Slyfield, Arun House, Denne Road, Horsham RH12 1JF

Capitol: help needed

I am a Horsham resident with an unusual feature on the front of my house: a lamp which used to be on one of the pillars outside the old Capitol Theatre. The previous owner rescued it from a skip whilst the theatre was being demolished.

I would love to get hold of a photo of the old theatre which shows the lamp in situ; I've tried the new Capitol and they have nothing in their archives. The Museum has one which is a nice shot of the theatre but the lamps are not very clearly defined. I wonder if members might be able to suggest any other source which is worth trying, please?

Chris Aldridge
tel: 01403 241169 or
chris.aldrige@ntworld.com



Ed: It looks as if there were five lamps gracing the Capitol frontage, and full marks to the chap who rescued one of them. It's probably the only vestige we have left of the old theatre. There is one standard photo of the Capitol, which Chris refers to, but – surprisingly – not much else seems to be available. But several Society members have good collections of local photos and postcards, and if anyone can help I know Chris would appreciate it if they got in touch.

Broadbridge Heath Village Improvement Society

The Horsham Society's proud boast is that it celebrated its 50th anniversary in July 2005. But Broadbridge Heath

kicked off first, and in 1910 had the foresight and energy to establish its own 'village improvement society', which had its first AGM in the village hall in January 1911.

Its chairman was Lt Gen Sir Edward Hutton, a retired soldier who at the time was renting Field Place from the Shelley family, and among the committee were Lady Hutton, Lt Col Pollock, Dr King and Messrs Bolwell and Streeter. In looking back on their first year's achievements, they all had good reason to be pleased with themselves, and declared 'a very satisfactory state of affairs'.

Despite a limited operating budget, a lot of work had been done on the common, with levelling, draining, fencing and planting, and it was now in much better shape – and was beginning to look like a proper recreation ground at last. A scheme for awarding prizes for well-kept gardens had also gone down well, and Sergeant Major Teague's drill classes had attracted seventeen boys and girls, and 'the consequent improvement in their physique and bearing was very marked': no more slouching around the village.

Mr Todman had attracted as many pupils for his carpentry classes 'as he could conveniently deal with', and thanks to the good offices of the Society a local resident had taken on a village boy, with a view to training him up to be a chauffeur (remember there were no driving tests in those days). The committee also noted with approval that Mr Leveson Scarth's lecture on Canada had been very well attended.

The County Council and Horsham Gas Company had been approached with a view to extending, respectively, the pavements and the supply of gas to the village. Promises had been made...

So the committee's brief was a wide one – it was an amenity society, a youth club organisation and a bit of an employment bureau as well. One of its key targets was to build 'a covered shed with simple gymnastic appliances' for the village children when it was wet, and let's hope this worthy project got off the ground. Messrs Hawkins and Selby also 'put forward the claims of the girls of the village', apparently in the belief that Broadbridge Heath boys were getting more than their fair share of the cake – so let's also hope this imbalance was rectified in the year ahead.

Drunkenness cured

◀ A lady, whose husband was addicted to intemperate habits for over twenty years, has at last discovered a Safe, Speedy and Permanent Cure. This remarkable remedy can be administered in tea, coffee, beer or spirits without the patient's knowledge. Perfectly harmless. Cures men or women: full particulars gladly sent to anyone forwarding s.a.e. Write privately to Mrs SE Barrington, 4 Featherstone Buildings WC. NB: powders are useless'.

Advertisement in the WSCT 21 May 1898.

Horsham District News

The Autumn issue of Horsham District News (HDN) has now been pushed through every letter box in the area. While the booklet is never less than professionally presented, and contains a good deal of useful information, how one wishes that its editorial tone was not so unremittingly gung ho. The Council clearly sees it as a propaganda vehicle, designed to spread the message that everything in the District is absolutely perfect. But we are all grown up council tax payers, and know that simply isn't the case. HDN would carry more credibility and weight if it told it as it was, and was frank about some of the things that haven't gone quite so well, as well as the successes. As it is the bright and breezy editorial tone tends to devalue the content as a whole, which is a shame. The booklet should try to be less like a party political broadcast, and aim to present a more down-to-earth appraisal of the District. That way it would be respected more and dismissed less. **BS**





— St. Mary's Parish Rooms, The Causeway, Horsham — August '00.

John M. Bray A.R.C.A.

The
**HORSHAM
SOCIETY**

FOUNDED 1955

Directory

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.

PRESIDENT: Dr Annabelle Hughes

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Oliver Palmer, Francis Maude MP, Nigel Friswell

CHAIRMAN

John Steele
2 Old Denne Gardens
Horsham RH12 1JA
Tel: (01403) 272814
Email: chairman@horshamsociety.org

VICE CHAIRMAN

Ian Dockreay
24 Wimplehurst Road
Horsham RH12 2ED
Tel: (01403) 241582

Hon TREASURER

Roy Bayliss
15 Patchings
Horsham RH13 5HJ
Tel: (01403) 262262

Hon SECRETARY

Michael Hall
13 Springfield Crescent
Horsham RH12 2PP
Tel: (01403) 255107

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Pat Gale
46 Bedford Road
Horsham RH13 5BJ
Tel: (01403) 253946

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION ORGANISER

Kathy Gleeson
13 Millthorpe Road
Roffey RH12 4ER
Tel: (01403) 210511

Horsham Society website: www.horshamsociety.org

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.

By The Way

New members

Thanks very much for joining to Miss Nichols, London Road, Horsham; Mr and Mrs Hilder, Cook Road, Horsham; Mr and Mrs Garman, Vale Drive, Horsham; Drs D and H Skipp, Grebe Crescent, Horsham; Mr Cuming, Whitehorse Road, Horsham.

Museum Society

The November talk is *Intrigue, Ambition and Respectability at Igham Moat* by Pat Mortlake. It's at 7.30 pm in the Guide Hall, Denne Road on 17 November, but come early for coffee and biscuits.

Town Centre Festival

Horsham Town Centre festival runs from Thursday 26 October – Saturday 28 October. The leaflet says it's 'a traditional fair, with live music, street entertainment and spectacular fun for all the family!...' And in case the point is still not made, it's 'fantastic half term fun!!! 10am – 10 pm'. So don't miss it!!!!



Horsham Press

A local business established over 100 years

We Offer Prompt Quotations & Turnaround

• Business Stationery • Brochures • Leaflets • Booklets • Envelope Printing • Typesetting & Design • In-House Finishing
• Digital & Lithographic Printing • Single, Multi or Full Colour Work • Mac & PC • Small or Large Runs • Free Local Delivery

Telephone 01403 265608

Mulberry Trading Estate, Foundry Lane, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 5PX
Fax: 01403 217759 E-mail: HorPress@aol.com www.horshampress.co.uk

© Individual contributors 2006. No material may be reproduced, copied or stored in a retrieval system without the prior consent of the relevant contributor, which should be sought via the Editor.