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LOCUS FOCUS

newsletter of the Sussex Place-Names Net

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• EDITORIAL

The **Net** has expanded to include Anne Drewery and Janet Pennington, to whom we extend a warm welcome.

I published a 500-word note about our activities in the *University of Sussex Bulletin*, 31/1/97, 2. If anyone wants to advertise us in other journals, do go ahead.

This might as well be the Editor's spot for being picky. The following misprints have been spotted in *Locus focus* 1 (1):

Page 20: the note on MARESFIELD mentions the OE word for 'extended, increased'; there should be a macron on the *æ* in this.

Page 22: the macron just referred to had obviously shifted two pages onwards, as there shouldn't be one on the word *rap* in the sentence beginning "They would have used *rāpum* ..." or in the one beginning "The legal words ...". Electronic workers will note the Editor's excessive reliance on global substitution functions. Sorry!

Please do let the Editor know what you're working on - there's plenty of room in *Locus focus* for work in progress.

Richard Coates

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offcentre I • THE MARLIPINS

Leslie Dunkling and Gordon Wright's *Dictionary of pub names* treats this as a pub-name pure and simple, and declare that it means 'nine men's morris'. Where did they get this from? Your Editor has an alternative view ...

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• PERSONAL STATEMENTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS: A SELECTION

RICHARD COATES

I am presently working on a detailed place-name history of Rottingdean.

KENNETH A.A. GREEN

I was born in Chichester in 1932 and educated locally and at the then County School of Art at Worthing. I worked for various firms, all with architectural connections, until 1968 when I went out on my own as an architectural and planning consultant, which I still am.

After long interest in local history, I founded Chichester Local History Society in 1984 and was Hon. Sec. for 10 years. I have written three books on Chichester's history for various publishers and last year formed Verdant Publications to publish local history booklets intending to cater for minority interests. My first such volume was *The street-names of Chichester*. I am still following up research on some of the early and now disused names. I am also a keen 'net-head' [thegreens@compuserve.com].

I am at present researching the Shackleton family, particularly their black sheep Richard Shackleton (a.k.a. Mellor) who had a Chichester connection and an incredible story is emerging which includes the theft from Dublin Castle of the regalia of the Order of St Patrick in 1907.

CHRISTOPHER WHITTICK

I qualified as an archivist in 1975 and have worked at East Sussex Record Office since 1977. I have always been interested in language, and the study of Classics at school, particularly an awareness of the common root of Greek and Latin, fired an interest in etymology. Although I have no expertise in place-names, I probably encounter thousands of forms in the course of a month's work, and I see it as my place in the Net to bring likely candidates to the attention of those who have.

THE COASTLINE WHERE MANHOOD'S IN DANGER

by Nigel
Davies-Patrick

COUNCILLORS are considering renaming a stretch of Sussex coastline because it sounds "sexist".

They claim the Manhood peninsula, near Chichester, has been the butt of too many smutty jokes, and ought to have a new name for a new millennium.

Eyebrows

The Manhood area includes the villages of Pagham, Selsey, Sidlesham, Birdham and the Witterings, and the name can be traced back to Norman times.

Now West Wittering parish councillor Jim Stokes reckons it could be time for change.



**DARREN
HURFORD:**
What do they
want to call it,
Personhood?

He said: "I think we should consider whether we continue to use this name. In this and the next century it could be considered extremely sexist."

"People may laugh at this, but it's a serious point. In other areas the name Manhood might cause people to raise their eyebrows."

offcentre II • UNOFFICIAL NAMES AGAIN

Pam Combes writes:

The road discussed in an offcentre in *Locus focus* 1 (1), *Mayhew Way*, has acquired, among some local residents, the appropriately descriptive name of *The Ski Run*; a name believed to have originated in the Planning Office. Whether this name will survive as a colloquialism in the longer term remains to be seen.

Liz Somerville adds that the road is still often simply referred to as *the new road*.

• RECENT LITERATURE

See also • BOOK NOTICES, below.

Combes, Pamela (1996) Searching for Sidnore. *Sussex Past and Present (The Sussex Archaeological Society Newsletter)* 80, pp. 9 and 13.

Garner-Howe, Vera (1997) Pilt versus Pit [letter]. *Sussex Past and Present* 81, 14. [Contains some engaging folklore about local names.]

Hough, Carole (1993) OE *mægden*: the place-name evidence. Appendix B of her doctoral

dissertation "Women and the law in early Anglo-Saxon England", University of Nottingham. [Related to next item but one.]

Hough, Carole (1995) A database for English placenames. *Names* 43, 255-74. [Describes the methodology and structure of the database established by the Leverhulme Project at Nottingham University, 1992-7 (first phase).]

Hough, Carole (1996) Place-name evidence relating to the interpretation of Old English legal terminology. *Leeds Studies in English (new series)* 27, 19-48.

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Kitson, P.H. (1995) The nature of Old English dialect distributions, mainly as exhibited in charter boundaries. Part I: Vocabulary. In Jacek Fisiak (ed.) *Medieval dialectology*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter (Trends in Linguistics Studies and Monographs 79), 43-135. [Kitson's book on Old English charter boundaries is still keenly awaited.]

Tyas, Shaun (1995) *A catalogue of the contents of Nomina. Issues 1-16 (1977-1993)*. Stamford: Paul Watkins.

• NEWS ITEMS

At the joint SAS/LAG meeting at St Michael's church, Lewes, on 21 March 1997, two lectures of relevance to **Net** members were given. John Bleach gave an account of his researches into artificial mounds of possibly Roman date in Lewes - with consequences for the knotty question of the traditional etymology of the town-name in OE *hlāwas* 'mounds'. Margaret Gelling, President of the English Place-Name Society, spoke on recent advances in understanding of Old English terms denoting landscape features, which may be regarded as a foretaste of the second edition of her well-known book *Place-names in the landscape* (Dent, 1984).

Richard Coates gave a talk on local place-names to the Shoreham Society on 25 April 1997.

The Ashdown Forest Project *Newsletter* has been discontinued, and information about the Project will in future appear in *Sussex Past and Present*.

• FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland is organizing a day-conference at the University of Sussex on Saturday 1 November 1997. It is anticipated that there will be five 45- minute papers, some certainly on themes relevant to Sussex place-names. Contact address of SNSBI: Miss Jennifer Scherr, Queen's Building Library, University Walk, Bristol BS8 1TR.

• METHODS: STANDARD FORMATS FOR COLLECTING NAME-SPELLINGS

An advance has been made in the collecting and electronic storage and processing of name- spellings. In her 1995 article (RECENT LITERATURE, above), Carole Hough describes the use of the commercial database software package known as INGRES® in the Leverhulme-funded project on English place-name elements running at the University of Nottingham (1992-7). She describes the format in which data is inputted, and explains some of the things that can be done with it, for instance sophisticated searching, analysis of the elements with which a given element co-occurs in place-names, and counting and statistical evaluation of various kinds. The database will soon be accessible using the Internet; it is allegedly already so, but an attempt by the Editor to access it in March 1997 did not succeed.

It seems likely that the INGRES® package is suitable for the requirements of county surveys; Hough describes some possibilities in *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 26 (1993-4), 15-26. These developments are of the greatest importance for the way onomastics will evolve in the next decade. It may prove possible to use INGRES® on a suitable laptop computer whilst actually in an archive or library. If computerization does no more than remove the hand-written element of archival work it will be a great boon! The Editor, whose handwriting at speed resembles that of an arthritic squid, will report further in due course.

• NOTES

Liz Somerville muses on naming:

(N1.2.1) Why do places have names at all?

I wonder if it is just my bias as a biologist which leads me to view place names as a set of competing variants, some of which win, e.g. by becoming written down and some of which lose. Obviously, we know far more about the former category, but it might be interesting to look at the landscape which is familiar to us and ponder why some features are not named, or only appear to be named rather late.

Why should people give places names? I don't know of any evidence that says people remember locations better if they are named, although relatively little research has been done on topographical memory "in the field".

"That hill there" will do perfectly well as a label if it is in clear view to the speakers. Similarly, simple labels such as "the big hill" will be adequate within a small area. Do such labels form the basis of many names? They have the disadvantage of being ambiguous as soon as the selective environment becomes large enough to encompass more than one such label. Cardinal points have similar problems, although they do proliferate, but is this a coevolution with a particular form of map-making? It would be interesting to see if this type of name is more often adopted by incomers,

perhaps mistaking it for something more precise.

All of the above is very simple-minded, but it may lead to a slightly different perspective, namely what the names tell us about the society which first used them.

*** **

Pam Combes has suggested a new etymology for *Iford*, written up for *Locus focus* by Richard Coates with her permission and sent to the Director of the English Place-Name Survey:

(N1.2.2) Iford

The first element is *īeg* 'island; raised land in marsh' (possibly in the genitive plural, but there is no evidence in the existing spellings for this). The village lies on the edge of the Ouse floodplain, recently (c16 onwards) drained. Adjacent are Rise Farm and Rise Barn (anciently in Southover, probably because given to Lewes Priory by the founder), anciently *Hither and Further Rhie* (Dunvan 1795: 414/6, cf. *PN Sx* 322); these are believed to contain the same word *īeg*. Iford is therefore 'ford associated with the "island(s)"', 'ford to the "island(s)"'. The modern pronunciation coincides satisfactorily in both names. The "islands" and Iford are not in the same ancient parish, but they are in the same hundred (Swanborough).

The topography is not easy to reconstruct, but a ford from Iford is by no means incredible. It is the nearest village to the "islands"; Kingston is a Downs-valley village, not essentially a marsh-edge and riverine one, and even today there is no access track/road to the "islands" from there. At the time of OS 1" first edition (1813), i.e. after drainage, Iford was the only parish, apart from the home-parish, with a track or causeway to them. This suggests the preservation of a traditional connection.

(NB on maps showing the situation just before the local government changes of 1974, the "islands" ARE in Iford, but this must be a consequence of the absorption of urban Southover into Lewes borough. It is of interest that they were NOT given to Kingston.)

The *DB* spelling *Niworde* remains aberrant on both this and the older view.

Reference

Dunvan, Paul (1795) *The ancient and modern history of Lewes and Brighthelmston. ("Lee's history of Lewes.")* Lewes: W. Lee.

*** **

Whilst we are in the Ouse marshes, Richard Coates invites you to reconsider:

(N1.2.3) Itford

Surely Itford Farm (Beddingham) is not what is claimed in *PN Sx* (358), but OE *gyte-ford* 'flood ford' (pronounced /jytəford/, /j/ as in German *ja*, /y/ as *ü* in German *dünn*). It was the only point at which the full width of the Ouse valley, regularly tidally flooded till drained, could be forded below Lewes.

*** **

Pam Combes writes:

(N1.2.4) *Guestling's talking point: a postscript*

Mawer and Stenton (*PN Sx 507*) suggest that the meeting-place for Guestling hundred was a spot near Fairlight church called *Hundred Acre* recorded in the Tithe Award. The name *Hundred Acre* is well attested as a jocular name for a small field, and this site is unlikely to represent the hundred meeting-place. Guestling, or somewhere in the close vicinity, seems a more likely site.

*** **

Richard Coates writes:

(N1.2.5) *SLONK in place-names of the Brighton area: no more slaughter, please*

Field-names of this form are recorded in Rottingdean as follows:

the Slonkes furlonge 1638 (1655) ESRO BRD 3/1

The Slonk or Southmost forlong of the Vicarage Laine 1732 ESRO BRD 3/7 The

Slonks 1819 ESRO AMS 4952/1/21

Upper and Lower Slonks, Slonks Hovel 1947/1970 Copper map Slonks (also

Slonks Corner, Hovel) 1971 Copper, pp. 9, 11, 157

Slonks Laine 1973 Copper, p. 12

The later fields Upper and Lower Slonks are some way from Vicarage Laine, and we need to assume two places, at different periods, bearing the same name.

Slonk is recorded in Kent (Parish and Shaw 1887) as meaning 'a slope, declivity; a depression in the ground'. The first meaning is the one relevant here. Upper and Lower Slonks occupy a smooth slope right on the Rottingdean/Rodmell boundary. The profile of Slonk Hill in Kingston Buci/Old Shoreham was a smoothly-descending spur before it was carved up by the cutting which carries the A27. There also existed land called *the Sloncke* in Preston (Court Rolls, 25 Sept. 1589; SRS 27), the precise location of which is unknown; and also in Telscombe, a furlong of Church Laine (document of 1701 (Cornes 1980)). Clearly the word was an authentic local dialect item.

The word may be a variant of *slant*, which is first recorded as a noun, 'the slope of a hill, piece of ground, etc.; a sloping stretch of ground', in 1655 (*OED*), and occasionally written with *-o-*.

Slonk is also discussed by Hartridge (1978: 59), who mentions an opinion of the place-name scholar John Dodgson's which is compatible with, but not identical to, the view I have taken here: that a 'tongue of land' may be referred to. Words of a similar shape to this are sometimes found in place-names with different meanings; but we are not dealing here with narrow, winding pieces of land (*slang*) or with hollows or swallowholes (*slank*). There is nothing to support the local view that the name has something to do with 'slaughter'; this red herring was first spawned by the Lewes historian Horsfield (1835; cf. G.N.S., *SCM* 26 (1952), 96). The Anglo-Saxons were not short of words for places of slaughter, and we don't need to invent another.

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published in d'Enno (1985: 45); version of 1970 displayed in Rottingdean branch library, The Grange, Rottingdean.

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Shoreham, Sussex. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 116, 69-141.

Parish, W.D. and W.F. Shaw (1887) *A dictionary of the Kentish dialect and provincialisms in use in the county of Kent*. London: Trübner (for the English Dialect Society).

S., G.N. (1952) Letter: Slonk Hill, Shoreham. *Sussex County Magazine* 26, 96.

SRS = Sussex Record Society

*** **

Richard Coates writes:

(N1.2.6) *SPIRK, SPARK and similar things*

This note grows out of the discussion of the *Domesday* name *Sperchedene* in East Grinstead in the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 58, p. 20, 59, pp. 6-7 (1996) and the modern name *Spartenden*. The word I suspect of being responsible for this is **spearca* (> modern *spirk* (a word recorded once in OED; related to more frequent *spirt* etc. in same sense?)) 'undergrowth, shrubbery of some kind'.

In fact a form **speorca* would account better for the forms in the record. But since no such form has ever been postulated or evidenced, and since much strange variety is still to be presented, I shall proceed as if we are dealing with the **spearca* proposed in A.H. Smith's *English place-name elements* II, 135. There is great complexity in the record; with what is presumed to be similar meaning, there seem to be forms in *sp--r--* where the first gap may have early *a* or *e* and where the second may have *t* or *k*. For instance, there is an early *Spertmere* in Carshalton (*PN Sr* 47) alongside our *Sperche-*; *Sparklie Wood* in West Coulsdon has early *-t-* (*ibid.*). On the other hand, it has long been recognized that an OE *spræc* existed, with the other ordering of consonant + vowel, as probably in *Spreakley* in Frensham (*PN Sr* 179), whilst *Sprattling St.* in St Lawrence in Thanet has early *-k-* (*PN K* 602).

I think that, even faced with all this doubtfulness, there is some support for *spearca* in Sussex. I notice there is a Sparks Farm in Cuckfield, which *PN Sx* (268) guesses might derive from a surname. The oldest spellings (c16) are *Spirkes*, *Spyrkes*, which makes them consistent with the *OED* word *spirk*, whether mediated by a surname of this form or not. There is also a *Spurk Barn* in Albourne (no early forms known). These make me fairly happy with the idea that **spearca* is a Sussex word (even if not yet proven to be medieval), and therefore available for compounding in the East Grinstead area.

There is something not fully understood about how OE *ea* can yield ME *e* (a change presupposed

by my analysis of the Sussex names), which is why **speorca* might be preferable; but it must happen, otherwise the late development of South Country *f(l)ex* (as in *Flexborough* hundred) for OE *feax* [*sic!*] ‘tuft’ is inexplicable. And once it is there, *e* generally but not infallibly becomes *a* before *r* + consonant, so either of modern *spirk* (*sperk*, *spurk*) or *spark* is to be expected. *Spark* is well attested in *Sparks* in Firle (NGR c. TQ 473082; TA, 1840), originating in a group of field-names (ESRO ACC 2553/2, 1775) each containing the element (*ex inf.* Pam Combes). From *spark*, *spart-* may have appeared as an occasional variant; cf. the interchange of *k/t* proposed in the note on SLONK, above.

• QUERIES

(Q1.2.1) *Old wicks - any light?*

Richard Coates asks:

Does anyone know of any clear associations between reasonably secure Romano-British dwelling- or industrial sites and occurrences of *wick*? The motivation for the query comes from the association of *Little Oldwick Copse* (Lavant) with a villa site (*SAC* 127 (1989), 243).

*** **

(Q1.2.2) *Fippa - where she?*

Christopher Whittick forwards a query from Dr John Blair, The Queen’s College, Oxford:

The life of Cuthman, known only from a 17th-century publication, includes the punishment of the woman Fippa, who was "dropped down to earth where a gaping cavern opened its mouth and swallowed her. From this that place is still called *Fippae puteus*". It should be in the environs of Steyning, and John Blair points to a pit on Round Hill; any ideas?

*** **

(Q1.2.3) *Twytown*

Pam Combes notes and wonders:

The field-name *Troy Town*, found in both Selmeston and Firle, originates as *Twytown* in the mid-15th century and develops, by the 19th century, to *Troy Town*. It demonstrates the same development in both places. In addition, both fields lie between two settlements. My working hypothesis is that *Twytown* represents a common field shared between two estates, but I would like to identify further examples either to substantiate or refute the suggestion. I would be interested to know whether the name has been found elsewhere in Sussex, and if so to identify the locations. Can anybody help?

*** **

(Q1.2.4) *Mecket Pen*

This name appears in the extreme east of Camber parish, attached to a feature on the marsh north of the Rye-Lydd road. It tantalizingly resembles a lost name applied to the foreshore of Hayling Island (Hampshire), *The Mackett*. Ideas for an origin to Richard Coates, please.

• ARTICLES

Pam Combes is working on some of the parishes north of the Ouse-Cuckmere downland, and offers an identification of the location of the place giving its name to the westmost hundred of this area.

Totnore's talking-point

Some of the names of the Sussex hundreds describe features that can be identified in the landscape, and one such is Totnore in Pevensey Rape, the second element of which is derived from Old English *ōra* 'hill ridge'. In this downland area of Sussex such hills are commonplace. Two spurs of chalk downland as well as the main ridge of the downs running east from Round Hill, a perfect *ōra* when viewed from the west, encircle and dominate the two major manorial holdings in the hundred in 1086, Firle and Beddingham. (There is a map of the area at the end of this article.)

The interpretation of the first element of the name is more controversial. Mawer and Stenton suggested that it was derived from a hypothetical personal name *Totta* that they had identified in other place-names in Sussex. However, the name is not recorded other than in place-names and perhaps should be regarded with some suspicion. An early form of the Sussex dialect word *tott* meaning 'bush or coppice stool' could be appropriate and Parish (1875: 124) also records the use of the term *totty-land* to describe 'high land, frequently on a hill side'. Either of these meanings would be apt in this locality where some of the best arable land lies on the chalk spurs and patches of scrub still occur on the north faces of the scarp slope. Undoubtedly scrubland would have been more widespread on the steep scarp slopes of the main ridge when the hundred was named. A combination of more intensive use of the downland and the grazing activities of rabbits, a post-Conquest introduction, has created the bare scarp slopes on this range of downland.

The use of the name *Totnore*, other than as the name of the hundred, is recorded in documentary sources relating to Firle from the 12th to the 18th century. In the 12th century Hugh Luuet granted sixteen and a half acres of land called *Tottenor and Cumba* to Lewes Priory. In the mid-fifteenth century acres held "by the lane on Totnore" and acres "near Totnore" were associated with Bartholomew Bolney's manor of Amyse in West Firle. By the late 18th century a furlong lying to the east of the road leading from Firle to the ridge on the crest of the down was called *the furlong under Totnore* and another further south *Totnore Furlong*. *Upper and Lower Coombe* lie adjacent to the parish boundary on the west of the road (Salzman 1934: 10; Clough no date, c. 1963: 45; ESRO ACC 2553/2 & AMS 6164/1).

The Totnore furlongs lie on the east side of the downland spur adjacent to Firle and remain now, as they were in the 15th century, arable fields. The close association of the name Totnore with this particular spur and its central position in the hundred combine to suggest that it should be considered to be the feature that gave its name to the hundred. Nevertheless the dominating landscape feature in the area is the *ōra* of Round Hill leading on to the ridge that rises above the spur encircling Firle and Beddingham. Scrub is still a feature of the untilled and ungrazed scarp of the coombs and ridge to the south. A lingering suspicion remains that the higher scrub covered main downland ridge was the original Totnore.

The Rev. W. Budgen proposed that a bowl barrow lying on the spur immediately adjacent to these fields was the hundred meeting place (Budgen 1929; see also Grinsell 1934: 266). But the names of fields lying on the adjacent spur suggest that that hundred meeting place was elsewhere.

Spilburgh and *Long Spilburgh* lie on the Beddingham spur to the south of Preston Court Farm.

(See the map at the end of the article.) Both names are recorded in the 18th and 19th centuries with an early 18th-century variant *Pilburgh*. Regrettably no earlier forms of the name have yet been located. A similar name is found associated with hundred meeting places elsewhere. *Speller* or *Spellow Close* in Wilbarston was the meeting place for Stoke (later Corby) hundred in Northamptonshire. The name Spellow deriving from Old English *spell* 'speech' and *hōh* 'a ridge, a hill'. Other similar names occur elsewhere, notably a field *Spelburghe* 'speech hill' recorded c.1139 in Bletchington, Oxfordshire (Field 1993: 236-7.) The 'speech' element in the name clearly suggests that it was a meeting place although a secure association with one cannot be made. The similarity in form between these names and Spilburgh in Beddingham is striking.

There is now no evidence for a barrow on the "spilburgh" but the position would be similar to the barrows on the adjoining spur and intensive cultivation on this rich arable land could have destroyed any evidence of such a feature long ago. In addition Saxon burials were discovered within barrows lying on the summit of Beddingham Hill in the early 19th century, both the barrows have now been completely ploughed out. Although the named fields lie much lower on the spur that curves up to the summit the possibility that the name refers to those barrows cannot be completely ruled out.

The spur on which the Spilburgh fields lie is impressive and lies between and dominates the two major manorial centres that constituted the greater part of Totnore hundred especially after the 12th century when the minor holdings of Tilton and Sherrington were administered within Rushmonden (later, in part, Danehill Horsted) and Alciston hundreds.

Such a site would have made an ideal open air meeting place. Suitors to the court would have been able to see the gathering and be seen themselves as they made their way there. Such characteristics would have been essential in a period when travellers had no maps to guide them and accurate timekeeping was difficult to achieve.

Not all hundred courts continued to be held at the place that gave the hundred its name. In the 13th century, Easebourne hundred court was held in Midhurst "under a certain ash tree". The Hundred House in Framfield lies about a mile away from the Loxfield mead that gave Loxfield hundred its name and similarly Younsmere Pit lay in Rottingdean about two miles from the manor where the hundred court was held. The site of Buttinghill is well documented but the hundred courts were not unfailingly held there; in the 17th century some courts were held at Cuckfield. Clearly some hundred courts continued to meet in the open air while others were held in buildings. The name Hundred House implies that some of these may have been provided for that purpose (Mawer and Stenton 1929/30: 15, 307, 389; Renshaw 1917: 6-20).

The examples serve to demonstrate that it is not safe to assume that the hundred meeting continued to be held at the same place in perpetuity. Spilburgh may indeed represent the meeting place for Totnore hundred at some stage. Whether an earlier meeting place existed elsewhere is open to debate and a later move to one of the adjacent manorial centres seems, at least to the modern mind, a logical development.

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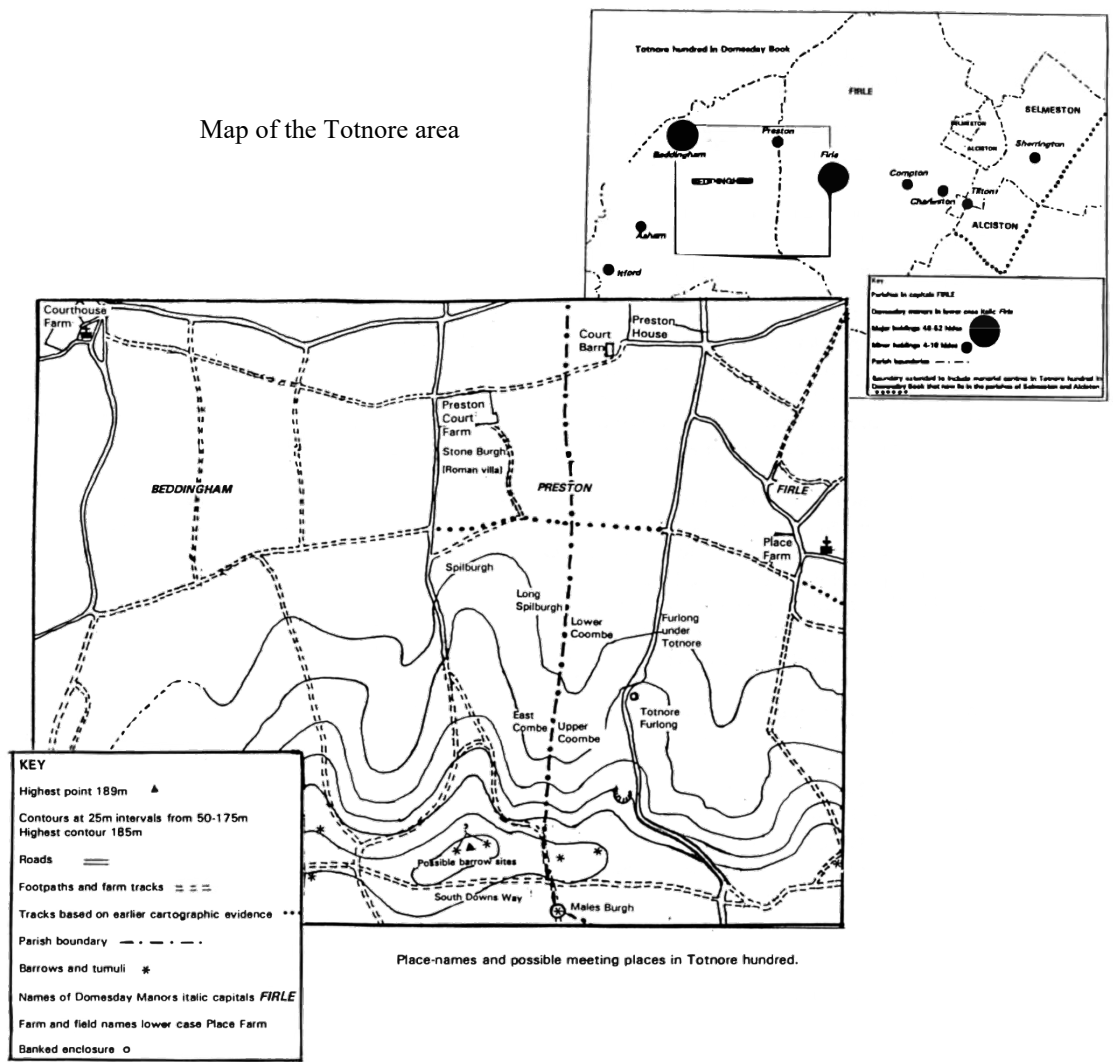
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Mawer, A.H. and F.M. Stenton (1929/30) *The place-names of Sussex*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (EPNS vols. 6/7).

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Renshaw, W.C. (1917) The hundred of Buttinghill. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 58, 6-20.

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Christopher Whittick identifies a turnpike terminus and corrects a mistaken impression of the EPNS editors.

Beggars Bush in Hartfield

Henry Card of Lewes, who retired as County Surveyor at the age of 79 in 1898, compiled a series of books relating to the history of roads and bridges in East Sussex; they are listed as ESRO R/C 4.

One of these volumes (R/C 4/11) contains a rough, undated map of a road from Stanfords End in Kent to Beggars Bush in Hartfield. I was recently adding some material to this class of documents and thought that I ought to attempt to date the map. Its style, paper and watermark all looked vaguely mid-18th-century, and it seems probable that the map can be associated with the act establishing the Bromley to Beggars Bush Turnpike in 1767 (7 Geo 3 c86).

Beggars Bush meant nothing to me and, given the scarcity of identifiable place-names on Ashdown Forest, I thought it would provide a simple note for *Locus focus*.

The southern end of the turnpike is at TQ 473302, where the B2026 joins the B2188, and that was going to be the end of the story; until, that is, I asked Pam Combes.

She tells me (a) that the name is now applied to a patch of undergrowth half a mile south of the junction, just east of where a gill rises at TQ 468293; (b) that a Roman Road runs to the east of it (Margary 1970: 143-44); and (c) it is included in *PN Sx*.

The *PN Sx* reference (369) is to Beggars Barn Shaw at TQ 467349, which the editors associate with a *Beggarsbush* in the 1564 Duchy of Lancaster survey of Ashdown Forest. Anne Drewery has kindly provided me with a transcript of that document (PRO DL 42/112, f165v, 166 - microfilm at ESRO XA 65), in which the name occurs at three points as a boundary-feature of the wards of the forest. It is actually written *Beggars Busshe* on every occasion (plus or minus the space), displaying a level of consistency at variance with one's experience of 16th-century orthography.

The survey shows two things. Firstly, *PN Sx* was wrong to associate the name with Beggars Barn Shaw; *Beggars Busshe* has to be within the forest, which Beggars Barn Shaw is not (nor is it so named on a survey of 1799 - ESRO DLW 562 map 24). And secondly, the modern location east of the gill is probably ancient - the bounds of the South Ward run eastward up the gill to Beggarsbusshe. Why those who named the turnpike did not use the term Kings Standing, the point at which the two roads meet, is a mystery; perhaps because, travelling south, Beggars Bush is in front of you, whereas Kings Standing is over your left shoulder.

Who are the mysteriously eponymous beggars? Did they also hang out at the barn, and at Beggars Well in Maresfield?

So you see what happens when a diligent archivist (or perhaps a self-indulgent one, I hear you say) decides to relist an 1880s County Highway Surveyor's book. More seriously, references to the 1564 survey are quite common in *PN Sx*, and if they have been applied as cavalierly as Beggars Bush, there are many similar mistakes out there for the unwary.

Reference

Margary, Ivan D. (1970) *Roman ways in the Weald*. London: Baker.

[Editor's note: *Beggars Bush* is a very frequent minor place-name. In a spot by the wayside which has remained uncultivated, it presumably means what it appears to: a traditional shelter. Compare *Shepherds Bush*, usually denoting a thorn-bush with its central branches removed. Dating is a problem.]

• BOOK NOTICES

Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society, vol. 60

Local place-name people will be interested in the 24-page *index locorum* to the first 59 issues of the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society*, published as no. 60 (1996/7). Numerous items of place-name import have appeared in the *Bulletin* over the years; many of these are recorded in the Sussex bibliography in *Locus focus* 1 (1), but that cannot do justice to the wealth of incidental mentions carefully indexed in this extra number. Available from Michael Leppard in his capacity as editor of the said *Bulletin*. Please send five first-class stamps with your order.

*** **

R.L.C. Jones (ed.), *Ashdown Forest bibliography*. Lewes: Sussex Archaeological Society (1997). Spiral-bound. £4.05 including p/p. from Dr Jones at Anne of Cleves House, 52 Southover High Street, Lewes BN7 1JA.

One of the easiest of academics' tasks is to carp at bibliographies, so let me say at the outset that this is a solid and useful 700-item work, and it is well worth overlooking the occasional oddity (e.g. citation practice in multi-author works; dates of classic texts: Cobbett's *Rural rides* 1985) and mistake (e.g. "Hobsbawn" (no initial) as author of *Captain Swing*; Pierre de "Putson"; "Radynen" manor - persistently misspelt thus) in it. Perhaps the only truly potentially distracting topographical error is "Penshurst" for "Penhurst" in item 600. The relevance of books and articles to the Forest is usually given scrupulously, but one wonders - and is not told

- how Sperling's 'Parochial history of Westbourne' squeezed in. The omission of Mawer and Stenton (!!!) contrasted with the inclusion of relatively low-grade stuff on place-names whose relevance is not even mentioned (Bishopp 1929) will disappoint PN people. *Domesday Book* is included (Morris's edition), but why on earth are Brambletye and Walesbeech manors not mentioned as relevant? In general, some attention to the material in the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* would have been welcome: see, fortuitous in its being published at the same time, the item in the previous notice.

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