

ISSN 1366-6177

# LOCUS FOCUS

forum of the Sussex Place-Names Net

Volume 5, number 1 • Spring 2001

## • NET MEMBERS

John Bleach, 29 Leicester Road, Lewes BN7 1SU; telephone 01273 475340; OR Barbican House Bookshop, 169 High Street, Lewes BN7 1YE

Richard Coates, School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QH; telephone 01273 678522 (678030); fax 01273 671320; email richardc@cogs.susx.ac.uk

Pam Combes, 37 Cluny Street, Lewes BN7 1LN; telephone 01273 483681; email pamela.combes@virgin.net

Paul Cullen, School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QH; fax 01273 671320; email paulcu@cogs.susx.ac.uk

Douglas d'Enno, 1 Bevendean Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton BN2 4RB; telephone 01273 882757; email dougd@cwcom.net

Anne Drewery, The Drum, Boxes Lane, Danehill, Haywards Heath RH17 7JG; telephone 01825 740298

Mark Gardiner, Department of Archaeology, School of Geosciences, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN; telephone 01232 273448; fax 01232 321280; email m.gardiner@qub.ac.uk

Ken Green, Wanescroft, Cambrai Avenue, Chichester PO19 2LB; email 106160.3022@CompuServe.com OR thegreens@barclays.net

Tim Hudson, West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RN; telephone 01243 533911; fax 01243 533959; email thudson@westsussex.gov.uk

Gwen Jones, 9 Cockcrow Wood, St Leonards TN37 7HW; telephone and fax 01424 753266; email mrs\_jones@lineone.net

Michael J. Leppard, 20 St George's Court, London Road, East Grinstead RH19 1QP; telephone 01342 322511

David Padgham, 118 Sedlescombe Road North, St Leonard's on Sea TH37 7EN; telephone 01424 443752

Janet Pennington, Penfold Lodge, 17a High Street, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3GG; telephone 01903 816344; fax 01903 879845; email jpsussex@hotmail.com

Diana Sanders, Director of Administration, University College Medical School, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT; telephone 0171 209 6306; fax 0171 383 2462; email d.sanders@ucl.ac.uk

Liz Somerville, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QG; telephone 01273 678511; email lizsom@biols.susx.ac.uk

Heather Warne, 13 Gladstone Road, Burgess Hill RH15 0QQ; telephone 01444 236347

Christopher Whittick, East Sussex Record Office, The Maltings, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YT; telephone 01273 482349; email Christopher.Whittick@eastsussexcc.gov.uk

• The Net members with email addresses can be contacted collectively at [spnn@cogs.susx.ac.uk](mailto:spnn@cogs.susx.ac.uk) .

## • CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

Net members	inside front cover
Editorial	3
Personal statements and work in progress	3
Noticeboard:	
Recent literature	4
Web resources	4
Events	4
InterXchange:	
Notes	8
Queries	8
Responses	11
Articles:	
<b>Richard Coates</b> : John Dudeney's topographical vocabulary	13
<b>John Townsend</b> : Bergen-op-Zoom, Ashurst	19

## • ABBREVIATIONS OF FREQUENTLY-CITED WORKS

<i>CDEPN</i>	V.E. Watts, <i>Cambridge dictionary of English place-names</i> (CUP, forthcoming 2001)
<i>DB</i>	<i>Domesday book</i>
<i>DEPN (Ekwall)</i>	Eilert Ekwall, <i>Dictionary of English place-names</i> (-4 (OUP, 1960) unless other edition flagged)
<i>DEPN (Mills)</i>	A.D. Mills, <i>Dictionary of English place-names</i> (-1 (OUP, 1991), -2 (1998))
<i>EPN</i>	Kenneth Cameron, <i>English place-names</i> (-5 (Batsford, 1996))
<i>EPNE</i>	A.H. Smith, <i>English place-name elements</i> (EPNS vols. 25/26, 1956)
<i>EPNS</i>	English Place-Name Society
<i>JEPNS</i>	<i>Journal of the English Place-Name Society</i>
<i>Lf</i>	<i>Locus focus</i>
<i>LOPN</i>	M. Gelling and A. Cole, <i>The landscape of place-names</i> (Shaun Tyas, 2000)
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English dictionary</i> (-2 (1989))
<i>PN X</i>	<i>The place-names of county X</i> ; EPNS volume
<i>PN Sx (Roberts)</i>	R.G. Roberts, <i>The place-names of Sussex</i> (CUP, 1914)
<i>PN Sx (Glover)</i>	Judith Glover, <i>The place names of Sussex</i> (-2 (Countryside Books, 1997))
<i>PNIL</i>	Margaret Gelling, <i>Place-names in the landscape</i> (Dent, 1984)
<i>STP</i>	Margaret Gelling, <i>Signposts to the past</i> (-2 (Phillimore, 1988))
<i>VCH X</i>	<i>Victoria history of county X</i>
<i>VEPN</i>	D. Parsons, T. Styles, with C. Hough, <i>The vocabulary of English place-names</i> (Centre for English Name Studies, 1997-, appearing by fascicle)
-0	an edition-flag (e.g. <i>STP</i> -2, second edition of <i>STP</i> )

#### Main relevant local periodicals and series:

SAC	<i>Sussex Archaeological Collections</i>
SASNL	<i>Sussex Archaeological Society Newsletter</i>
SFH	<i>Sussex Family Historian</i>
SH	<i>Sussex History</i>
SNQ	<i>Sussex Notes and Queries</i>
SPP	<i>Sussex Past and Present</i> (successor to SASNL)
SRS O	<i>Sussex Record Society</i> volume, with volume number
WSH	<i>West Sussex History</i>

#### From the newspapers

Recent controversial points: how to market in a packaged way (yuk!) the alleged communities of St James's Street and Kemp Town in Brighton, using names or "names" like *East Laine Village*, *Marine Town* and *BN2* (*Evening Argus*, 28/11/2000); and whether to rename Ambrose Place, Worthing, as *Pinter Place* after the playwright who lived there briefly in 1963-4 (*Evening Argus*, 20/04/2000).

There are also lots of fanciful ideas afield about a new name for the new city of Brighton and Hove. Why bother? Everyone will just call it *Brighton* in keeping with the venerable if ruthless tradition that the name of the biggest and best-known place involved in a "merger" is used and that of the smaller is submerged. (How prominent administratively are Ifield, Ore and Goring-by-Sea?) Just look no further than the Pig in Paradise pub in Queen's Road - it's now the *City of Brighton*. The University of Sussex's *In touch* magazine (Spring 2001) reminds us: "You know that Brighton has been made a city ....". The exceptions to this process of demotion are generally frivolous or derogatory, like the blended *Crawsham* bestowed on the houses between Horsham and Crawley that have been a twinkle in the Environment Secretary's eye (*Evening Argus*, 03/10/2000), or carefully-planned offence-avoiders, such as the village-name *Milton Keynes* whose selection skated round the need to choose between Bletchley, Fenny Stratford and the other contending towns of near-equal size.

#### Passing interest 1

There has been some interest in the smallholding-name *Mount Misery* in Piddinghoe recently (*Sussex Express* (Lewes edition, February and March 2001)). Michael Leppard has sent in a review of John Harrison's *Where the Earth ends: a journey beyond Patagonia* (John Murray, 2000) from the *Church Times* (29/09/2000), where this name is cited by the reviewer Adam Ford as one of the place-names that "speak for themselves" in "the bleak islands and waterways around Cape Horn".

#### Passing interest 2

A landmark no more: The Devil's Chimney, a chalk pinnacle at Beachy Head, fell down in a massive cliff collapse in early April 2001. The surviving houses of Crangon Cottages at Birling Gap, nearby, look set to follow since the idea of a cliff-base protection scheme has now been rejected on ecological grounds.

## • EDITORIAL

With deep regret, I have to report the sudden death of Professor Kenneth Cameron on 12 March 2001. He was formerly the Director of the English Place-Name Survey (1967-93), and the EPNS's editor in Lincolnshire, for which five volumes out of a projected 20-odd have been produced (with a sixth imminent), as well as the author of a popular dictionary of the county's names. Ken's impact will be long-lasting. He was a notable scholar who pioneered correlating place-name evidence with geological evidence to draw conclusions about Viking settlement in the East Midlands (now regarded as generally peaceful), and he was also the author of the standard handbook *English place-names*, now in its fifth edition - a record for any place-name book in the British Isles. It was he who did not push me off when I made my first attempt on the North Face of English place-names with inadequate equipment, and I am deeply grateful to him. His funeral service took place in Beeston, Nottingham, on 27 March.

On 23 May 1999, not recorded in *Lf* at the due time, occurred the death of Richard McKinley, the noted surname scholar and author of the fine books *The surnames of Sussex* and *A history of British surnames*, among other works; and on 2 July 2000 died John Field, whose *magna opera* were his field-names dictionary and narrative history, and the monumental *Reader's guide to the place-names of the United Kingdom* (with Jeffrey Spittal). My full obituary of him will appear in *Nomina* 24.

With the future in mind, it is good to see that serious interest in Sussex place-names is spreading. The audience for Paul Cullen's talk in Lewes on 30 March 2001 was substantial, and this number of *Lf* includes contributions of various types from non-members John Townsend, John G. Davies, Alan Hughes and Isaiah Cox. Welcome to all.

Richard Coates  
Editor

## • CORRECTION

In *Lf* 2 (2), article by David Padgham, the words "The Saxons did not work iron" should have read "The early Saxons did not work iron", and any implication in Jeremy Hodgkinson's response in R4.1.2 that the author was in error should be transferred to the Editor. It also should have been made clearer that the second paragraph of R4.1.2 contains words by Mr Hodgkinson, not Mr Padgham. Apologies all round.

## • PERSONAL STATEMENTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

ISAIAH COX

I am a doctoral candidate at King's College, London, editing the 1248 Sussex Eyre Roll. I have completed the transcription and translation, and I am now turning to positive identification of all the given place-names. Ideally, I'll be able to identify, locate, and sketch the meaning of most of the place names, and then produce a map showing both these names, and the relative number of times they are mentioned in the document. A by-product, of course, will be an index of the names.

The roll is approximately 70,000 words in length. Place-names, especially those of Hundreds which have failed to present themselves to the Eyre, number well into the hundreds.

As I am just starting this work, I have yet to consult the standard works. Indeed, I am just beginning to realize how difficult it is to get a copy of these works! If you know of any copies I can purchase, or even borrow so I can make photocopies, I would be most appreciative.

## • NOTICEBOARD: LITERATURE, THE WEB, NEWS, EVENTS

### • RECENT LITERATURE

□ Abbreviations in references: see *Locus focus* 1 (3), 2.

Cole, Ann (1999/2000) *Ersc*: distribution and use of this Old English place-name element. *JEPNS* 32, 27-39. [For a brief outline of the matter of this paper, see *Lf* 2 (1), 30-1.]

Hey, David (2000) *Family names and family history*. London: Hambledon and London. [Eleven Sussex references are indexed.]

Hobbs, Colin (2000) The manor of Tarring Peverel in Fletching. *Danehill Parish Historical Society Magazine* 6 (7), 13-16. [Identification of a relevant family of the surname *Peverel* 'peppercorn', and associating the manor with the Forest Row manor of Lavertye of this name. Maps show field-names of the Fletching manor.]

Leppard, M.J. (compiler) (2000/1) Index rerum to *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 1-71: house-name and place-name material is indexed on pp. 8 and 10. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 72.

Leppard, M.J. (2001) Twitten. *East Grinstead Museum Compass* 4 (Spring), 10-12.

Mills, A.D. (1998) *Oxford dictionary of English place-names*. Oxford: Oxford University Press [new edition]. [A considerable number of interesting names countrywide have been added since the 1991 edition.]

Mills, A.D. (2001) *Oxford dictionary of London place-names*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ray, Sue (2000) Taking stock. *SPP* 92 (December), 12. [Identifies the lost Stock Park, a medieval hunting-park, with a site close to Dial Post in West Grinstead.]

Townsend, John (2000) Bergen-op-Zoom. *WSH* 65, 32-4. [Reprinted in this issue of *Lf*.]

Watts, Victor (1999/2000) Some place-name distributions. *JEPNS* 32, 53-72. [Important article with some distribution maps for selected elements; a foretaste of Watts's forthcoming *CDEPN*.]

□ Items in previous issues of *Locus focus* are not listed.

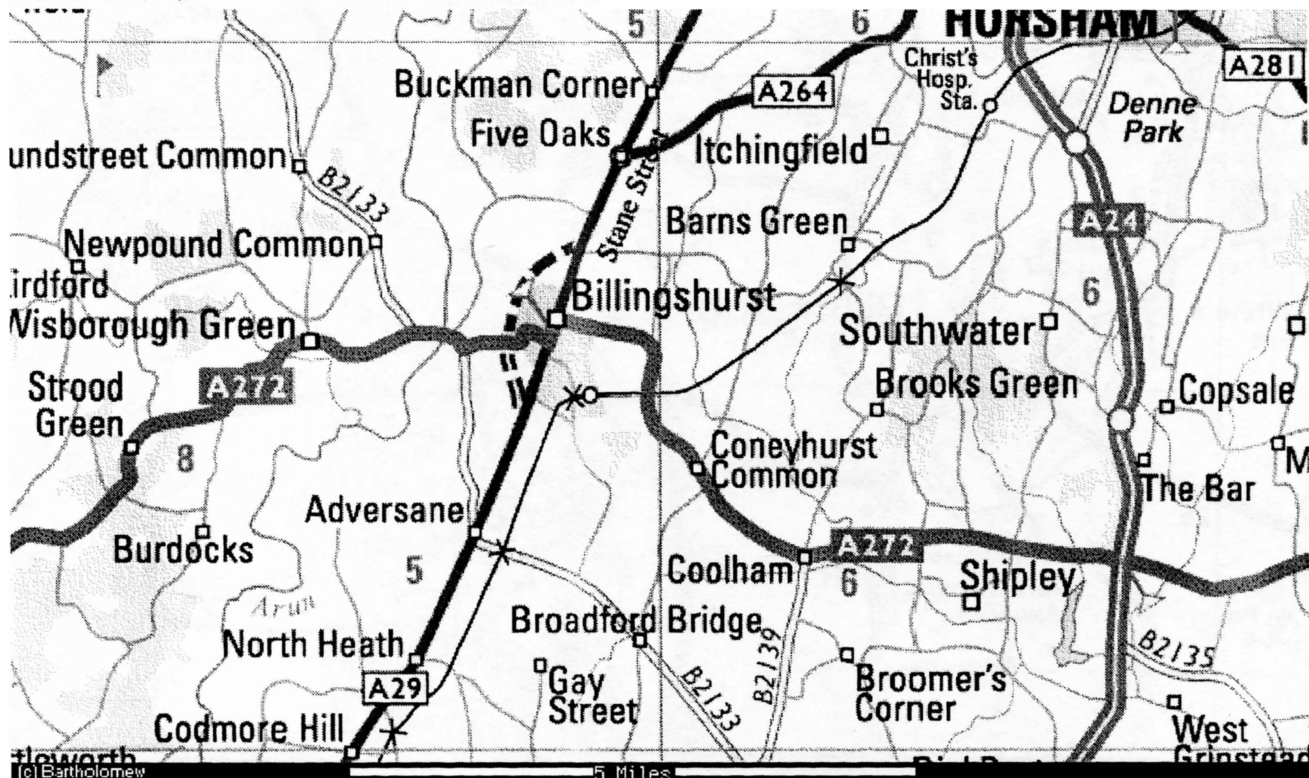
### • WEB RESOURCES

<http://uk8.multimap.com>

This is a very useful online resource allowing one to search for places by name at various degrees of delicacy down to street-names, and to see maps centred on the relevant name (or postcode) at different scales down to 1: 10000. The position on which the maps are centred can be adjusted by simple buttons. A sample search centred on Billingshurst yielded the three maps reproduced on pp. 5-7 to show the capabilities of the resource. The 1: 100000 is © Bartholomews, the 1: 25000 is a familiar © OS map, and the 1: 10000 derived from OS data (in this particular instance with street-names marked, but the database seems to be incomplete as of late March 2001 as Kirdford, for example, has no street-names). The on-screen images are full-colour and more satisfactory than these reproductions (achieved using Netscape browser and a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5M black-and-white printer) suggest.

### • NEWS

**Paul Cullen** gave a talk on the subject of Sussex place-names to the Lewes Archaeological Group on 30 March 2001.



In just a few seconds you can:

- Roam maps of the world
- View street maps of Europe
- Pinpoint any address in GB
- For maps on your site:
- Email us at: [sales@multimap.com](mailto:sales@multimap.com)

## Online maps to everywhere.

[Click here to return to map page](#)



In just a few seconds you can:

Roam maps of the world

View street maps of Europe

Pinpoint any address in GB

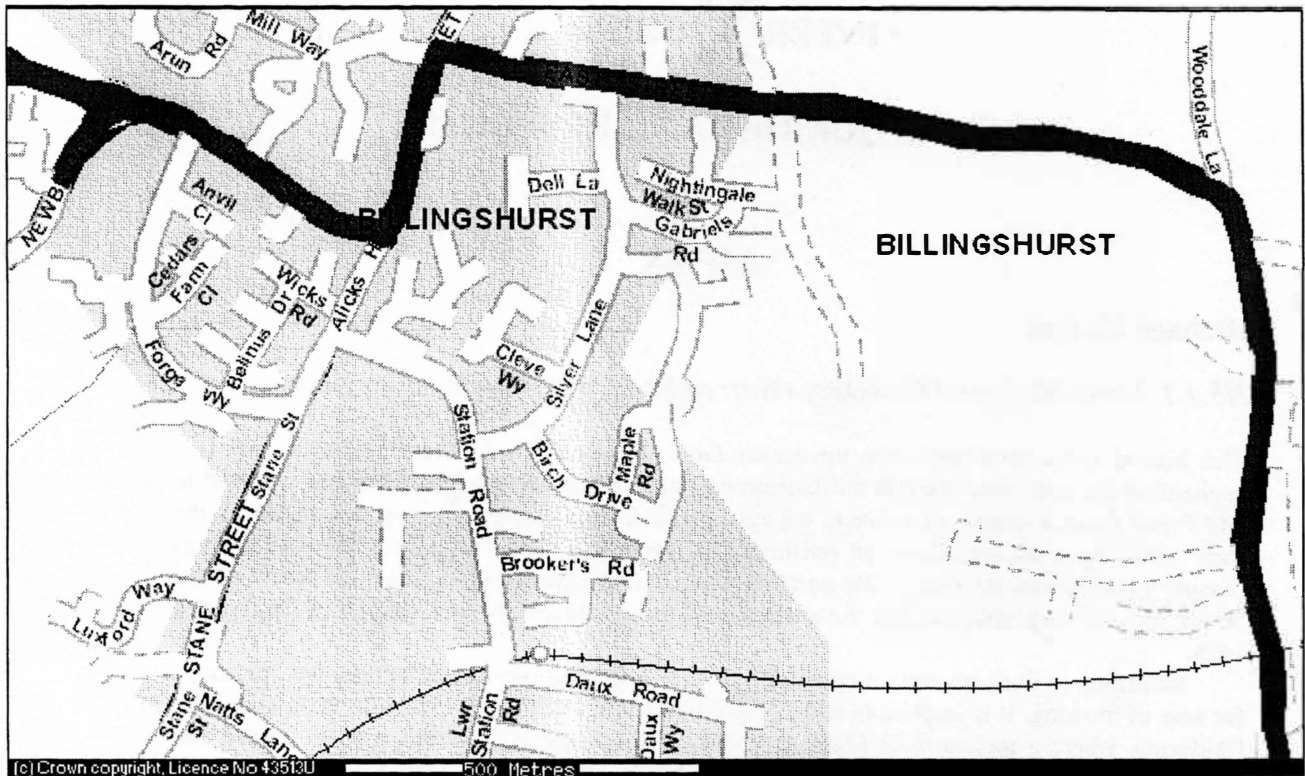
For maps on your site:

Email us at: [sales@multimap.com](mailto:sales@multimap.com)

**Online maps  
to everywhere.**

[Click here to return to map page](#)





In just a few seconds you can:

- Roam maps of the world
- View street maps of Europe
- Pinpoint any address in GB
- For maps on your site:
- Email us at: [sales@multimap.com](mailto:sales@multimap.com)

**Online maps  
to everywhere.**

[Click here to return to map page](#)

# • INTER X CHANGE

## NOTES, QUERIES AND RESPONSES

### • NOTES

#### Richard Coates

##### *N5.1.1 Lawn Memorial Cemetery (Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton)*

This bizarre name developed from the earlier *Lawn Memorial Park*, where *memorial park* is a euphemism for *cemetery*. An odd misdivision has taken place, reminiscent of the one involved in *Old Parish Lane*, a quarter of a mile to the east, which, I very strongly suspect, was created in the early 1980s by someone lacking all sensitivity to places and names on seeing that the lane was crossed by what was marked as *Old parish boundary* (i.e. between Ovingdean and Rottingdean) on the first OS map revision after the extension of the boundaries of the borough of Brighton in 1928.

Returning to our cemetery: it contains the word *lawn* because its gravestones are horizontal for ease of mowing. It is inspired in concept and name by Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California, where a replica of St Margaret's church, Rottingdean, has been erected, named *The Church of the Recessional* after the famous poem by Kipling; the coincidence is presumably not accidental. Christopher Whittick has kindly sent me a postcard of this edifice, which also conveys the surprising fact that, strictly, *Forest Lawn* is not the true name of the cemetery in California, but rather *Forest Lawn* ®.

### • QUERIES

If readers respond directly to the person making the enquiry, please would they also send a copy to the Editor?

##### *Q5.1.1 La torre in North Stoke (Tim Hudson)*

In Richard Coates's *The linguistic history of early Sussex: the place-name evidence* (University of Sussex, 1983), 9, the place-name *la torre* in North Stoke is referred to in the context of the Primitive Welsh word *\*torr* meaning 'hill'.

In fact, the name describes pasture closes along the river Arun, directly between North Stoke and Houghton villages, as is clear from an estate map of 1798 at Petworth House (PHA 3352). Does the name have any recognizable meaning in that context, I wonder?

#### ○ Editor's note

Parish's dialect dictionary mentions *tore-grass*, "[t]he long old grass which remains in pasture during the winter"; not before 1707 in *OED-2*, earliest just *tore*; but attributed to the four south-eastern counties. The etymology is unknown.

I recant my youthful indiscretion! This looks like a significant antedating (1275 << 1707).

##### *Q5.1.2 Agmond's Wood, Barcombe, and a surname (Pam Combes)*

*PN Sx* (314) associates the name of Walter Hagemund and Alexander Aghemond recorded

respectively in the 1296 and 1327 Subsidy Rolls (SRS 10) with Agmond's Wood in Barcombe. Radulphus Aghemond or Aghemound is also listed in the South tithing of the hundred (Hamsey) in 1327 and 1332. He was the wealthier of the two Aghemonds; in 1327 he paid 10s. 0<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. as compared with 3s. for Alexander and on 1332 10s. 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. compared with Alexander's 1s. The family appear to have had an interest in both Hamsey and Barcombe but their name remained associated only with the latter. Has anyone any suggestions about the origin or meaning of their surname? It occurs nowhere else in Sussex in the Subsidy Rolls.

**Paul Cullen** replies: This is the common Scandinavian personal-name *Ag(e)mundr* < \**Agamundr* (Old Norse *Qgmundr/Amundr*, Old Swedish *Aghmund*, Danish *Amund*) so it will be more common in the north than in Sussex. The usual modern forms of the English surname are *Amond*, *Ammon*, *Amon*; the retention of [g] in *Agmond's Wood* is noteworthy (though I'm not sure quite what it tells us .... seemingly a pointer to non-Danish origin?) [On this real phonological difficulty, compare the material presented in Erik Björkman, *Scandinavian loan-words in Middle English* (Halle an der Saale, 1900), 157-8, note 2, and note the local Downland pronunciation of the word *burg* 'tumulus' with final [g] instead of the expected [bʌrə] "borough". -Ed.]

### Q5.1.3 Two field-names in Barcombe (Pam Combes)

(1) The field-name *Butlett/Budlett* is not uncommon in the Weald. It occurs in the tithe award (1840) attached to two small areas of wood lying on or adjacent to the Longford Stream in Barcombe. Straker (1931: xii) claims that the name *Budlett/Butlet* might indicate a place where ore was washed, although he does not claim that was invariably the case. I doubt that interpretation applies to the Barcombe *Butletts*. What is the reason for thinking it might apply to any? Is there an alternative explanation of the name?

(2) Any ideas regarding *Amilic mead* near Handly Farm (formerly a common) in Barcombe? This sounds like a flower or plant but I cannot associate anything securely.

#### ○ Editor's note

A possibility for (1) is *buddle*, *boodle* 'corn-marigold', as in *OED-2*. The structure appears to be of the well-known type *X-ett* where *X* is a plant-name and *-ett* means 'grove, clump'. The trouble is that *X* is usually a tree. But the best analogue for 'corn-marigold' is perhaps *rushett*, which occurs in e.g. Ifield. If anyone knows some other field-names where *X* is a herbaceous plant, I should be very pleased to know of it.

The ore-washing sense seems to be restricted to Cornwall and Derbyshire (Wright 1898-1905).

**Paul Cullen** interpolates: A couple of non-tree OE *-et* combinations, though sadly nothing herbaceous:

OE *hrēod* 'reed' (*Reditts* in Heathfield, *PNSx* 466)

OE *fȳrs* 'furze' (*la Fursette* at an unknown place in Surrey, *PNSr* 359)

OE *\*hrispe* 'brushwood' (*Rispette* at an unknown place in Surrey, *PNSr* 359)

As for (2), is it totally out of the question that this word could be *hemlock*, which is from OE *hymlic*? Note the spellings *hemeluc* (13th century), *homeluk* (15th), with much variety in the vowel of the first syllable though no <a> in the forms available to me. The <i> in the final syllable is normal till the end of the 11th century, when it seems to be generally replaced. If correctly analysed, this form appears to be both conservative (<i> in final syllable and total of three syllables) and innovatory (no <h>).

○ *References*

Straker, Ernest (1931) *Wealden iron*. London: G. Bell.

Wright, Joseph (1898-1905) *English dialect dictionary*. Oxford: Frowde.

*Q5.1.4 Sores Wood in Etchingam (Alan Hughes)*

This place (at TQ 708253) is mentioned in *VCH* 1 (394, footnote 1, and 404, footnote 7) as a possible equivalent of *Seuredeswelle* in charter of Henry I, referring to hides in Henhurst as outliers of Alciston. It is not mentioned in *PN Sx* or *PN Sx (Glover)*. I have not heard of it locally myself, but will continue asking. I am collating material for a local talk on Shoyswell and Henhurst in Domesday times, so I would appreciate anything you know about Sores Wood.

○ *Editor's note about the older name*

It looks pretty clearly like 'well of someone called by a surname or personal name deriving from Old English *Sǣfrīð*', which would give something like Middle English *Sevreth* in this area, and the <d> in the spelling would be a typical Normanism for English /ð/.

This name often appears as a personal name in Sussex records as *Seffrid*, *Seffray*, in the thirteenth century, mainly near Chichester, and there were two bishops of Chichester called this (McKinley 1988: 312-3) - hence perhaps the popularity of it? It presumably became a surname through being a patronymic. My guess is it is the surname which appears in the Etchingam name.

○ *Reference*

McKinley, Richard (1988) *The surnames of Sussex*. Oxford: Leopard's Head Press (English Surnames series 5).

*Q5.1.5 A Coquer lugg (Janet Pennington)*

Arundel Castle MS. M572, Court Leet for Steyning Burrough (regret date mislaid, late 17th or early 18th century)

A man was being presented for ".... not makeing his ditch from .... to .... allowing him six weekes time to repaire the same and to put downe a Coquer lugg leading into the Feilds .... Wee doe find the s[ai]d .... in parte repaired the s[ai]d ditch but not layd any Coquer Lugg therefore Wee doe give him time to make good the p[re]misses ....."

I have never seen this before. Having looked up (*OED*) all forms of *cock*, *cockle*, *cobble* etc., no luck. I have come across *Lagg* as a field-name, meaning, I seem to remember, a muddy, or low-lying watery place, but that doesn't seem to apply here. Are they talking about some sort of cobbling with flints?

○ *Editor's note*

*Cocker* is given as 'A culvert; a drain under a road or gate' in the *Parish/Hall Dictionary of the Sussex dialect* (1957), 23, where it is said to be a West Sussex word.

○ *Paul Cullen notes:*

*OED-2* includes *lug* 'a long stick or pole; the branch or limb of a tree' (of obscure origin, any relation to *log* unclear). With *cocker* being 'a culvert; a drain under a road or gate', I wonder whether our "Coquer lugg leading into the Feilds" was intended to be a tree-limb laid across the drain/"ditch" as a footbridge.

*Q5.1.6 Where is Bretnold?* (Christopher Whittick, on behalf of an ESRO enquirer)

The problem lies in a page of very clearly-written 1851 census return for Kingston on Thames - so clear, in fact, that it surely represents a transcript from the original by the enumerator.

Thomas Roberts, 27, grocer in Clarence Street, says that he was born at *Bretnold* in Sussex. His wife was born in Croydon, but their visitor Harriet Roberts, 17, had been born at Bretnold as well.

The head of the next house was born in Beccles, so he knows his Sussex from his Suffolk (this is often a problem), but we cannot suggest what is meant by *Bretnold*. The nearest we can get is *Brinksole* in Petworth, but that seems very unlikely.

[The Editor can only hazard Brent Knoll, East Brent, Somerset (incorrectly Devon in *DEPN-4*).]

## • QUICK RESPONSES TO QUERIES AND ARTICLES

*R5.1.1 More on an early date for laine [ref. Q4.1.5 (Richard Coates), R4.2.2 (Margaret Thorburn)]*

**John G. Davies** draws attention to material in the Lewes chartulary (SRS 40: 12). This important document tells us that in Ovingdean the Lord (of Lewes Priory?) has [in c.1445] in each laine to be sown yearly [in the eastern farmlands of Ovingdean] 25 acres wheat in the North Laine, and so on in the two South Laines (i.e. a South Laine in each of the two parts of Ovingdean). This date of c.1445 is the earliest mention of laines he has found in his Ovingdean researches.

**Christopher Whittick** picks up Margaret Thorburn's reference in R4.2.2, and confirms that ESRO XA 3/23 is a microfilm of, *inter alia*, PRO E315/56. On f.246v begins a survey of the manor of Alciston of 11Hy6 (1432-33), which makes frequent mention of *Le Middilleyne*, *Le Westleyne* and *Le Estleyne* (NB not as printed). This is therefore confirmed as the earliest usage known of the word *laine*.

The Latin *cultura* is used for a laine, but there is no word for *furlong*, which appears as *for-long*. The whole system is *Lez Comynfeldes*, which again has no Latin equivalent.

*R5.1.2 A speculation about the Seven Sisters [ref. Q4.1.7 (Christopher Whittick)]*

**Janet Pennington's** immediate reaction to the mention of *the seven sisters* in Laughton was to seek an alehouse called *The Seven Stars*. She says:

"I knew that Christopher Whittick's beady eye would not have misread *sisters*. I had already looked on Derek Rawling's alehouse licence database (which he generously copied to me some time ago) and noted what I take to be alehousekeeper(s) in 1594 ESRO QR/E/2/7, William Pancroft, and in 1619 ESRO AMS 6357. I don't imagine Laughton supported an inn at that time.

"Spurred on by this I looked up Larwood and Hotten (see *Lf* 4 (1), 12; my edition is 1951) and on p. 158 I read the following:-

The Seven Sisters, the sign of two public-houses in Tottenham [Middlesex], were seven elm-trees, planted in a circular form, with a walnut-tree in the middle. They were said to be upwards of 500 years old and local tradition had it that a martyr had been burnt on that spot. They stood formerly at the entrance from the high road at Page Green, Tottenham.

"So, were they meeting at the pub, or by the trees? Or in the pub by the trees?"

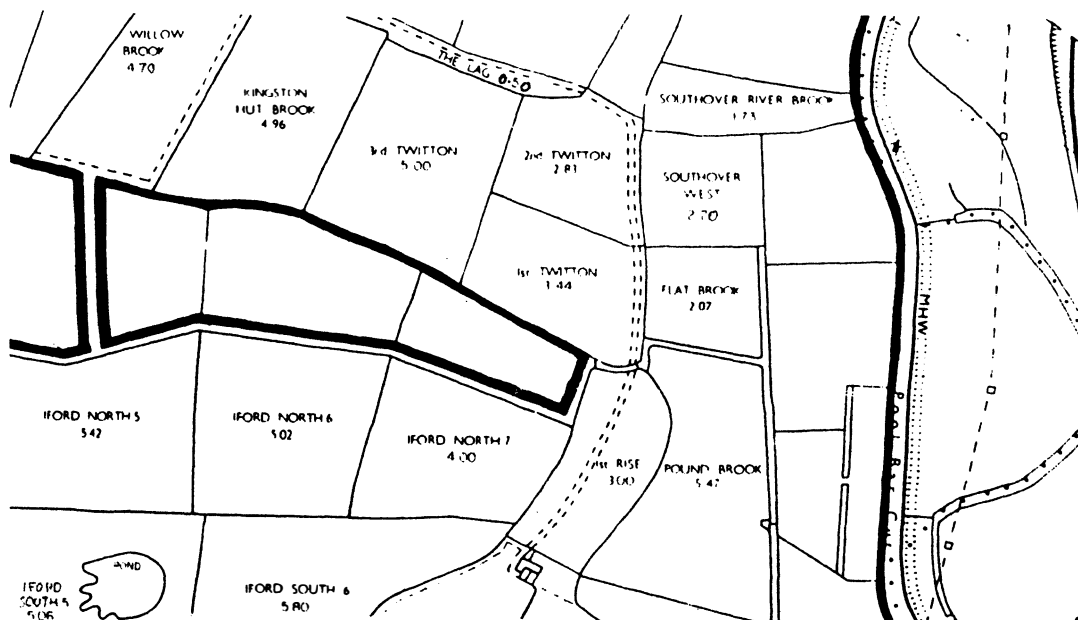
*R5.1.3 More on twitten: new contexts [ref. Q1.3.4, N2.1.3, R2.1.4, R2.2.7, N3.2.5, N4.1.2 (various authors)]*

**Christopher Whittick** has found a new application of the term in case-papers in litigation over the will of Sarah Medley of Coneyborough in Barcombe (1762), which include the following:

There was and is a room on the two pair of stairs or garret floor of the said deceased's late house at Coneyboroughs which was called by Edward Medley esq the deceased's late husband and afterwards by her The Twitten to which room there is a passage or anti-chamber with doors to both

-- allegation in *Hunt v Dixon and Medley* in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1762 (PROB 18/73/20)

**Richard Coates** notes three contiguous fields in Iford called in modern times *First, Second* and *Third Twitten*, which contain or abut the farm track linking Rise Barn with Swanborough, and numbered upwards in that direction (map, see below, by John Robinson, kindly made available by Douglas d'Enno). It is hard to escape the conclusion that the names refer to the track, even though it is in open country (reclaimed marshland). The name is post-Tithe Award and may be very recent (negative evidence may be found on John de Ward's map of the Lower Ouse Levels (ESRO MS. A2187 (1620) and the Tithe Award itself, in both of which the area simply forms part of the Brooks). It therefore probably gives evidence for the developing sense(s), not the original one.



*Iford marshes, © OS, © John Robinson*

• ARTICLES

**Richard Coates**

*John Dudeney's topographical vocabulary*

ESRO MS. ACC 3785/11 is a small rough notebook consisting of four folded paper leaves stitched together. It is separate from, but formerly enclosed with, a rough draft and plan of the well-known autobiographical sketch *Some Passages in the Life of John Dudeney of Lewes Schoolmaster, But formerly a Shepherd* (ACC 3785/4; in two fair copies at ACC 3785/3) dating from 1849. This was published, though not quite in full, by Blencowe (1849). These papers were formerly in the care of the Sussex Archaeological Society (no accession number), to whom they were, with other papers, presented by Alice [Mrs Henry] Dudeney, at an uncertain date. The SAS transferred them to ESRO on 1 February 2000. I am indebted to ESRO for permission to publish the notebook for the first time.

John Dudeney lived from 1782 to 1853. There is no doubt whatever that these notes are his own work, nor that it is an autograph MS., as the handwriting closely resembles that in the rough draft of *Some Passages ...* The ESRO accession note dates the work it accompanied on accession to the 1840s; there is nothing in the text which allows us to be more precise, and the paper is not watermarked. A mention of Horsfield's *History* means that it must date from after 1834; a mention of Dudeney's father's death places it after 1836; and the datable works of Dudeney are all from before 1850. The MS. is a rough draft, as the organization and spelling reveal, but no fair copy appears to have been made. Indeed, it is unfinished; lemmata are provided for some terms for which no explanation is given. Though the material does not appear in *Some Passages ...*, it has passed into currency; for instance, through mention by MacLeod (1933: 155), it provides the title of *The Hunns Mere Pit* by Peter Mercer and Douglas Holland (1993).

It is edited here for the first time, and it is presented as near literatim as possible. The only significant additional marks are the chains of tildes (~) which should be followed if a continuous text is required. Text starting on a certain page is sometimes spread over the lower half of one or more subsequent pages, in footnote style, showing that the initial plan was probably to deal with one word per page. Points of interest to place-name scholars in this little book are brought out in my editorial notes, which follow the text.

A Burg or Dool  
is a terminus to  
(often) mark the  
boundaries of parishes  
or farms.  
Four kinds of

*The entry for burg or dool in Dudeney's hand*

*Notes on presentation*

Dudeney's crossings-out are between :colons:, the nearest to subpunction that I can achieve with the present technology.

Dudeney's insertions are between <angle brackets>. (Note that in the editor's own text, angle brackets enclose letters/spellings, the general convention in linguistics.)

Dudeney's own cross-referencing or noting uses the symbols + and \*. Textual connections made by the editor are marked by ~, ~ and so on, and editorial notes are numbered.

All (under)scorings are Dudeney's own.

The sole concession to the difference in page-sizes between the original and this periodical has been to ignore Dudeney's mid-sentence line-breaks. However, where a word is broken, with no other punctuation, an editorial virgule / appears in the text.

The text has been thoroughly checked (the editor is much indebted to Christopher Whittick for a chastening second opinion), and all surprising spellings are rendered as Dudeney wrote them. This is a trifle unfair, as much would no doubt have been corrected in a fair copy.

*Disclaimer*

It is impossible to distinguish <o> from <a> (and even <u> and <n>) with complete reliability; <e> and <c> can also be closely similar, as can <e> and <i>, which may differ only as to the presence or absence of the dot. Thus *Rottingdean* on 2v may be correctly spelt, but the last character but two is overdotted. The last but one is probably <a>, but might be <n>; I have given the benefit of the doubt.

## DUDENEY'S TEXT

1r

On :the: Terms applied to certain localities on and about the South Downs

-----

A Bottom - The long valeys between the hills (or brows)

Thruhout the extent of the down there are very evident signs of their having been <in former<sup>1</sup> extensively> cultivated except where the soil is exremly barren scarcely an acre is to be found which does not present to the eye evident marks of cultivation - Pieces or alotments seem to have been subject to the labour, of tillage, <for many years> - these pieces or ~

1v

{blank}

2r

A Slaunk - a smal:ler: Bottom or slight indentation running :ru: into a larger is called a Slaunk<sup>2</sup>  
there is Coom<sup>3</sup> S  
courthouse S  
Warningor S



2v

A Combe is a short and steep bottom<sup>4</sup> The writer of Baxters his.' of Sussex<sup>5</sup> says Rottingdian is situated in a Coombe - not so - Hastings might be said to be in a coombe - The bottom in which it<sup>6</sup> is extends upwards two miles to the N of it

-----

~ or alotments are from one to several acres in area - The boundries are mostly right lines they form parallelograms The fields on the sides of the hills :frequent have banks on link: have :a: links or banks <of several ft> in some instances yard the lower side of one<sup>7</sup> Plat<sup>8</sup> bing level with the top of the link which descend to the one below it

3r

A Holt - Is<sup>9</sup> a small collection of trees and underwood \* <on> at the sides of the downs - I know of no instance of the <term> being applied to a copise not among or near them<sup>10</sup>

\* Ti is<sup>11</sup> is what in other situations would be called a copice

Clayton H

Pig's H

Boxt Holt<sup>12</sup>

3v

A Link - a bank usually between two pieces of Cultivated land the <one> piece com/ning to the top of the ling the other to its bottom

4r

A Bostal

Jug's + Bostal Qry<sup>13</sup> Jog's

The term is applied to a hollow road up a hill ~

-----

++ I know of no instance in whch the term Bosthill is aplied to a hill by the native Sussex people

---

-----

~ so we have Courthouse Bostal Warningore Bostal, Novington B Street Ditchling Bostal, - White B. near Alfriston and at Kingsone we have Jug's Bostal so called :on account: because the Brighton fisher women called by the country people Jugs or Jogs used to come over the downs by Brighto race course and desending ~

4v

A Burg or Dool is a tumulus to (often) mark the Boundaries of Parishes or farms

Four Lords D

-----

~ the hill<sup>14</sup> by this road entered :Lewes: by South/over to sell their fish at :the: Lewes market after the formation of the turnpike <road> between Lewes & Brighton this road was disused by them ~

~ \* I have seen <the term> Bosthill applied to hills as Ditchling Bostill but the people do not use it - the hill is by them cal<sup>d</sup> The<sup>15</sup> Beacon

5r

Dean

-----  
-----  
A young man of the name of Starnes whom my father succeeded as under Shepherd at Kingstone - Climbed to the top of a<sup>16</sup> directing Post near the pond on the top of Newmarket hill close by which the Jugs had to pass -

5v

A Ham

6r

Balmer Hough (huff)

6v

A Shrave - a breaking away of the turf <& so forming a hole on> - on the side of a hill by the sheep is called shrave<sup>17</sup>

-----  
Slade - a Road between two<sup>18</sup> mountains - Lemon's Dict. sub verbum Saxon Slæd<sup>19</sup>

7r

Hanns<sup>20</sup> Mere Pit

in :abt: in Rottingdean parish about a quarter of a mile to the eastward of Woodingdean on the brow of the hill a few yards :from the road: to the left of the road leading from Woodingdean to Balsdean of late and for some years the plough has passed over it so that it is now a flat of a few rods in length with a rise or bank on its south side  
The shepherds & people call it "Hound's Mare Pet"<sup>21</sup> and say that the Courts of the Hundred were held there - but not in the memory of man - My father was born 1753 and died when 84 years of age - he lived in the neighboured<sup>22</sup> nearly all his life - He did not remember the courts being held there but had

7v

heard the old people speak of it - so it is probable the Court has not been held there for more than a century  
- Perhaps the records of the Hundred may refer to it  
This hundred consists of the Parishes of Falmer Rottingdean & Ovingdean

8r

{blank}

8v

{blank}

○ Editorial notes

- 1 The word *times* is evidently omitted here.
- 2 The sense 'hollow' is known for this word, but it is perhaps better attested as 'slope'. This matter is discussed in Coates (1997) and Combes (1998). Whilst it is hard to question Dudeney's credibility, his attachment to 'hollow' is surprising. See however note 19.
- 3 Dudeney usually spells the descendant of OE *cumb* as <combe> or <coombe>, but I presume that is what is meant here.
- 4 This is in accordance with modern thinking; see *LOPN* (103-9). A *dean* is a long main valley with a gentle gradient (113-22), as illustrated by Rottingdean. Though Dudeney never got round to completing a gloss or note on *dean* below (5r), his view, the correct one, is implicit here.
- 5 T.W. Horsfield; with an interesting attribution of the work to the publisher, as with Paul Dunvan's *History of Lewes and Brighthelmston*, commonly known by the name of the publisher W. Lee.
- 6 I.e. Rottingdean. The spelling of this name in the previous sentence may in fact be *-dean* with a stray ink dot above it.
- 7 First letter altered from <t>.
- 8 'Small area of enclosed ground', a variant of *plot*. The first letter is indistinct and has been altered from lower-case.
- 9 First letter altered from lower case.
- 10 This also accords with modern thinking; a *holt* is held to be a single-species wood (*LOPN* 233-4). The term *coppice* has to do with woodland management, and it is not really clear that it should be equated simply with *holt* (as done in Dudeney's own note immediately below). *Holt* does not carry 'management' as part of its sense, though it may imply it; in practical terms the words may have overlapped in application.
- 11 Altered from *tis*.
- 12 I.e. Boxholt in Lewes St Anne Without, on which see Coates (1999: 21) and references there.
- 13 For *Query*. Thanks to Christopher Whittick for this reading.
- 14 Altered from *hist*.
- 15 <T> altered from lower case.
- 16 Altered from <th>.
- 17 For this word cf. Parish/Hall (1957: 119) under *shravey*, interpreted as a noun, 'a loose sub-soil, something between clay and sand', and also under the same form, which represents an adjective derived from *shrave*, in *OED-2* (where the earliest citation is from Sussex in 1793). The common factor in these definitions appears to be instability, i.e. stoniness or flakiness of texture. The base-word also appears in *Red Shrave*, a location known to fishermen off Newhaven (Stoker 1963: 36), which is a line of rocks surrounded by sand.
- 18 Altered from *too*.
- 19 The word is undoubtedly really one for a valley (*LOPN* 141-2), though greater precision is difficult; early scholars had difficulty pinning the word down even that far (see the entry in Bosworth-Toller 1898). Dudeney presents us with a problem here, as he is evidently allowing his education to influence his native topographical vocabulary. It is most unlikely that *slade* was still a living word in Sussex in his time, and he is extracting a sense, as appeared appropriate to him, from current place-names and from his (mistaken) reference-book, which must be Lemon (1783). This might give us more confidence in believing that he was wrong about *slaunk* (see note 2).
- 20 Possibly *Hunns*, and so read by previous commentators, but *Hanns* looks more likely to me; the name is fully discussed in Coates (forthcoming). The place-name may have become associated with the surnames *Hann* or *Hunn*, neither Sussex in origin but the latter found in Sussex by the seventeenth century.
- 21 Previous commentators have read *Hounds Mere Pet*, but that is clearly a misreading.
- 22 Probably showing dialectal reduction of the final syllable *-hood* to [-əd].



## John Townsend

### *Bergen-op-Zoom, Ashurst*

[This constitutes a reply to a query by Janet Pennington, *Lf* Q3.1.3.]

Without hyphens, Bergen op Zoom is a town of about 48,000 inhabitants in the south-west Netherlands. It was once a powerful fortress on the river Scheldt and close to Antwerp. With hyphens, Bergen-op-Zoom is a small cottage over two hundred years old on Horsebridge Common in Ashurst, Sussex. The name is first found in the 1841 census returns; in 1791 it was *Youngs Cottages* (Horsham Museum Library MS. 248). The long-held local explanation for the change in name is that it is due in some way to a Dutch water engineer who came c.1800 to Ashurst to improve the navigation on the river Adur.

Early clues to his identity appeared promising. An important drain running from Henfield to the Adur was the Holland sewer. But *Holland* proved to derive from the medieval *Hall Lands* which were drained by the sewer. Next, a look at the registers of neighbouring parishes led to the Van Dyke family of Steyning. But there was nothing helpful about them. Then there were the Detmold brothers who lived briefly on Horsebridge Common. Perhaps they had come from north-west Germany via the Netherlands to Sussex. But they were English by birth and artists by profession.

No Dutch engineer there. Nor was any trace of him in the library of the University of Sussex (the Sussex Collection, and books on Dutch history, land reclamation and drainage); in the court books of the Manor of Kings Barn (WSRO Add MS. 381) of which the cottage was copyhold; and in the records of the river Adur. The Archive Office in Bergen op Zoom has been unable to help (enquiry November 1998). Indeed, these searches have revealed that there was no need to employ an expert from abroad. The minute books of the Commissioners of Sewers for the Rape of Bramber (WSRO MS. LD III/SM 1,3,4 (1725 onwards))<sup>1</sup>, who were responsible for the river, show that it needed constant "cutting, cleansing and scouring": mud to be removed, reeds and osiers cut, wharves consolidated, bridges repaired, sewers (or land drains) kept clear, banks raised. All this work was well within the capabilities of the Commissioners, drawn from local gentry, and of a local labour force.

There was doubt whether the Commissioners were legally empowered to act further (Butler 1973: xlii). To undertake new, more ambitious works, like cuts to bypass long curves in the river, they needed an Act of Parliament. This they achieved in 1807. Two British engineers, James Creasey in 1805 and Cater Rand in 1806 made preparatory surveys (WSRO MSS. QDP/W5 and QDP/W6, W7 respectively). The latter, from Lewes, and with an established reputation for his work on East Sussex waterways, was appointed Surveyor under the Act (Farrant 1973/4). When a new survey of the river was needed in 1871, he carried out the commission assisted by Richard Buck.<sup>2</sup>

There is a reason for caution. The Commissioners' Minute Book for 1782-1812 is missing - the very period when the Dutch engineer was supposed to be active. However the considerations still apply: the relatively easy maintenance of the river before 1807 and the availability thereafter of expert British engineers. Furthermore, this is the period of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. France has conquered Holland by 1795 and installed a French garrison in Bergen op Zoom, there to stay until 1814. England lay under threat of invasion. The times were hardly propitious for a Dutchman to come to work in Sussex.

If *Bergen-op-Zoom* was not brought to England by a foreign visitor, then perhaps it was brought back by a native visitor to Holland. In the period under review, this person would most likely have been a soldier. In the closing stages of the Napoleonic Wars a British expeditionary force was sent to Holland. It was led by Sir Thomas Graham and included the 2nd Battalion 35th (Sussex) Regiment of Foot. In March 1814 it tried, but failed, to dislodge the French defenders from the fortress of Bergen op Zoom. The action, though minor, was full of drama: a night attack timed for 10.30pm (which, though carefully planned, broke down immediately into confusion);

difficulties with scaling ladders; the obstacle of broken ice in the ditches; French artillery fire along the streets; house-to-house fighting, very heavy casualties (Fortescue 1920: 33-50). Any participant would have had a fine story to tell; and what better memorial to him than a house named after the battle! Unfortunately, this soldier has not been traced. The cottage was held by the Baytopps until 1836 and then by the Banfields. Neither family seems to have had military connection. The families they were linked to by marriage, and also all males baptized in Ashurst between about 1770 and 1800, have been investigated, without success. The personal details of only those soldiers discharged to pension remain in the army records in the Public Record Office, and they are in the minority. The four hundred or so killed at Bergen op Zoom and the survivors who did not receive pensions are known by name only. So the presumed local hero of Ashurst may never be identified.

How then did the story of the Dutch engineer arise? Perhaps Cater Rand's name sounded foreign. *Rand* is certainly a Dutch word meaning 'edge' or 'border' [though the surname has other origins also - Ed.]. However, he was baptized in Lewes, the family having moved to Sussex from Essex (Lucas 1916: 127-30). A connection may once have existed with Holland; but even if this were so, it would have been too tenuous by his time for him to be the supposed Dutch water engineer.

Originally published in *West Sussex History* 65 (2000), 32-4, and reprinted with permission here.

○ *Notes*

- 1 I am indebted to Janet Pennington for this reference.
- 2 His field book survives: WSRO Add Ms 1000.

○ *References*

- Butler, David J. (ed.) (1973) *The land drainage records of West Sussex*. Chichester: West Sussex County Council.
- Farrant, John H. (1973/4) Civil engineering in Sussex around 1800 and the career of Cater Rand. *Sussex Industrial History* 6, 2-14.
- Fortescue, J.W. (1920) *History of the British army*, vol. X [, esp. 33-50]. London: Macmillan.
- Lucas, Perceval (1916) The Verrall family of Lewes. *SAC* 58, 91-131 [esp. 127-30].

□□□

Copies of this periodical are available from:  
The Librarian  
School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences  
University of Sussex  
Brighton BN1 9QH  
for £ 3.50  
Some back issues are still available

*Locus focus*, forum of The Sussex Place-Names Net  
© *The Sussex Place-Names Net* 2001  
Published twice a year in Spring and Autumn