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locus focus

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Younsmere
Maplehurst
Aldrington
Sharpthorne
Pevensey
Eggs Hole
Cowfold
Racton
Bayham
Holtye
Buncton
Runcton
Duncton
Ifield
Iford
Iford
Waldron
Avisford
Seaford
Bosham
Ferring
Argos Hill
Ambersham
Newhaven
Searles
Shulbrede
Tilgate
Camber
Preston
Hastings
Slaugham
Roedean
Kirdford
Cuckfield
Saddlescombe
Bohemia
World's End
Portfield
Lyminster
Ticehurst
Uckfield
Adversane
Scrag Oak
Cousleywood
Seven Sisters
Bognor Rocks
Jarvis Brook
Cross-in-Hand
Isle of Thorns
East Grinstead
East Easewrithe
Devil's Dyke
Kingley Vale
Chanctonbury Ring

Woldhurstlea
Punnett's Town
Three Cups Corner
Loxfield Dorset
Sussex
Ropetackle
Tackleway
Golden Square
Old Steyne
Knockhundred Row
Palehouse Common
Nan Kemp's Grave
Great Wilkins
Open Winkins
Short Legs
Long James
Timberlongfeilde
Hither Petty-House Field

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• ABBREVIATIONS OF FREQUENTLY-CITED WORKS, SOURCES AND ARCHIVES

<i>CDEPN</i>	V.E. Watts, <i>Cambridge dictionary of English place-names</i> (CUP, forthcoming 2002/3)
<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>EFN</i>	John Field, <i>English field-names: a dictionary</i> (David and Charles, 1972)
<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>ESRO</i>	East Sussex Record Office
<i>JEPNS</i>	<i>Journal of the English Place-Name Society</i>
<i>LPN</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>SAS</i>	Sussex Archaeological Society
<i>STP</i>	Margaret Gelling, <i>Signposts to the past</i> (-2 (Phillimore, 1988))
<i>TA</i>	Tithe award
<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)
<i>WSRO</i>	West Sussex Record Office
-0	an edition-flag (e.g. <i>STP</i> -2, second edition of <i>STP</i>)

Main relevant local periodicals and series:

<i>Lf</i>	<i>Locus focus</i>
<i>SAC</i>	<i>Sussex Archaeological Collections</i>
<i>SASNL</i>	<i>Sussex Archaeological Society</i>
<i>SFH</i>	<i>Newsletter Sussex Family Historian</i>
<i>SH</i>	<i>Sussex History</i>
<i>SNQ</i>	<i>Sussex Notes and Queries</i>
<i>SPP</i>	<i>Sussex Past and Present</i> (successor to <i>SASNL</i>)
<i>SRS 0</i>	Sussex Record Society volume, with volume number
<i>WSH</i>	<i>West Sussex History</i>

Abbreviations for the names of languages and dialects:

AN	Anglo-Norman
ME	Middle English (about 1100-1485)
MedL	Medieval Latin
ModE	Modern English (1485-present; Early ModE 1485-1650)
NCy	North-Country dialect(s)
NF	Norman French
OE	Old English (about 400-1100); formerly known as Anglo-Saxon
OFr	Old French (before c.1250)
PrW	Primitive Welsh (i.e. Brittonic Celtic of about 500-800)
RB	Romano-British (i.e. latinized British Celtic of about 40B.C.E.-500C.E.)
SCy	South-Country dialect(s)
Sx	Sussex dialect
WGmc	West Germanic (i.e. the prehistoric ancestor of OE)

Symbolism

[...] encloses representations of pronunciation using IPA notation
<...> encloses spellings, principally individual letters

From the newspapers

The *Argus* of 08/02/2002 highlighted the strange case of Fetham station near Steyning, on an official British Railways Property Division map. It was allegedly closed in 1963 three years before the rest of the Christ's Hospital to Shoreham line. What there was there to close has not been discovered. This name has not turned up in any gazetteer of Britain; Fetcham (Surrey) and Feetham (Yorkshire North Riding) are known.

• **EDITORIAL**

I hope that readers will like the new-look front of *Lf*. The motif is based on a tile from the monastic kiln of Shulbrede Priory, Linchmere, of uncertain date (maybe 14th century), originally published in *SAC* 75 (1934) by Lord Ponsonby and the Hon. Matthew Ponsonby.

A warm welcome to the **Net** for Andrew Lister, who introduces himself and his interests below. And warm thanks to John Radford for permission to reprint his piece from the *West Sussex Gazette*.

The death has occurred of Joe Pettitt, who will be known to many Sussex historians, especially those specializing in the Weald and its industry. His erudite and quirky views on history and place-names will be missed, as will his regular presence in his 80s at the AGMs of the EPNS. Michael Leppard has contributed an account of his life.

I am continuing a tradition, not explicitly flagged up as editorial policy before, of publishing replies to queries from members of the public and heritage professionals about local place-names. Sometimes these replies reiterate established scholarship. I should be pleased to know whether readers think this is worthwhile or not. And if **Net** members do the same kind of thing, please would they let the Editor know if the products are at all suitable for inclusion in *Lf*?

Richard Coates
Editor

• **PERSONAL STATEMENTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS**

RICHARD COATES

I have agreed to produce a dictionary of Sussex place-names for the EPNS Popular series, which already contains volumes for Lincolnshire and Durham. I hope to work on this during 2003-4. There is some prospect of my book on Hampshire names (Batsford, 1989) eventually being updated and reprinted as part of the same series, but that is probably a long way off. Less positively: the application for a grant from the AHRB to extend the recent DAPNE project has unfortunately been finally turned down, despite good referees' reports.

PAM COMBES

I am working with Sue Rowland, a cartographer at the University of Sussex, on developing a project to study the medieval settlement of the parishes of Hamsey and Barcombe. Sue has already undertaken a substantial amount of work on Hamsey so my main effort will be directed towards Barcombe. An essential early element of the study will be to render legible the Barcombe tithe map. When both tithe maps are available we hope to set up a GIS mapping system on which to enter all the data from maps and historical and archaeological sources.

The discovery of the Roman villa site at Barcombe came about as a direct result of Sue's fieldwork in Hamsey. The association of a parish name containing the element *comp* with a villa-site is particularly exciting, especially as the villa itself lay in Dunstall field. Few of the other names appear quite as exciting, but who knows? I am particularly interested in establishing whether the system we are setting up will allow specific field-name elements to be associated with the local topography and geology.

A brief diversion from this project has been epitomized by the spate of enquiries I have posted regarding place-names in Buxted; see query Q6.1.1 below.

ANDREW LISTER

I am a history graduate and local studies librarian. I have recently started to develop an interest in name studies (both place- and personal), and have joined the EPNS and the Society for Name Studies in Britain & Ireland (SNSBI). My interest is both linguistic/etymological and social/historical, and extends to several geographical regions, particularly in south-east and south-west England. Being a novice in this area of study, I claim no special expertise, but am keen to learn and to relate my place-name studies to a growing interest in historical cartography.

• NOTICEBOARD: LITERATURE, THE WEB, NEWS, EVENTS

• RECENT LITERATURE

- Items in previous issues of *Locus focus* are not listed.
- Entries from *DEPN (Mills)*-2 may now be read online at <http://www.xrefer.com/entry> ; one finds a topic menu including place-names; chooses one; and can enhance the information visually.

Eley, Philip (2000) *Place names in the Borough of Gosport*. Gosport: Hampshire County Council (Gosport Museum). [New edition in preparation.]

Hough, Carole (2002) Women in English place-names. In Carole Hough and Kathryn A. Lowe (eds) *'Lastworda betst': essays in memory of Christine E. Fell, with her unpublished writings*. Donington (Lincs.): Shaun Tyas, 41-106. [The title means 'The best of trackwords [i.e. posthumous reputations]' in OE.]

Leppard, M.J. (2001-2) The Hamlet of East Grinstead: origins, access and area. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 75, 7-13. [Draws on place-name evidence and discusses parish- internal routes and boundaries; this was the part of E.G. in Loxfield hundred and South Malling deanery.]

Padgham, David (2001) The lost settlement of Bulverhythe. *Hastings Area Archaeological Group (HAARG) Journal* (new series) 12, 8-15.

Corrected item: Leppard, M.J. (2001) Final stress. *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 74 (Autumn), 7. [On the eighteenth-century pronunciation of *Coodham* or *Cowden*; not in Worth parish, but the Kentish parish of that name. The phonology is relevant to the onomastic dialect of Sussex.]

• WEB RESOURCES

The Digital Archive of Place-Names in England resource prepared for Hampshire and Sussex by Paul Cullen during 1999-2001 is now available on the Internet. The URL is mulder.cogs.susx.ac.uk/dapne . Leave the username box blank, and use "finberg" as the password. At the precise moment of writing there are still residual technical problems; I hope these will be resolved by the time of publication.

• FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The autumn conference of the Sussex Archaeological Society will be held at the University of Sussex on Saturday 26 October 2002 under the title "The South Downs: shaping a future from the past". Speakers will include Peter Brandon, David Streeter, Richard Coates, Brian Short and Sue Hamilton. Registration begins at 0945.

• INTER X CHANGE: NOTES, QUERIES AND RESPONSES

• NOTES

Richard Coates

N6.1.1 A widespread and perennial problem: Dunstall(s)

This name appears in unexplained alternation with *Tunstall(s)* - see e.g. *EPN*-5: 149. The names *Tunstall* and *Dunstall* and their variants are reckoned by all scholars to be equivalent, and this view is supported by the fact that some names actually show spellings with both <t> and <d>. This alternation may be approached in a way which calls forth a more delicate problem than the one it is intended to solve. If Latin *domus* 'house' had been borrowed into early PrW, it would first of all have taken the form **doμ*. Before a single nasal consonant, *[o] was raised to *[u] in what later became the Welsh dialects, and perhaps also in ("Cornish") Devon, before the year 550 (Jackson 1953: 272-3). (This process and others following it would have eventually produced Modern Welsh **dwf*, of which there is no trace, however.) If the word had been borrowed into English at this stage - as **dum*, perhaps applied to buildings of more permanence than the Welsh or the English themselves built - it would have been available for compounding into the expression **dum-st(e)all* 'site of a **dum*', and in such a structure assimilation of [m] to [n] before the alveolar [s] would have been natural, especially where the first element is opaque in English.¹ The resultant **dun-st(e)all* might, in view of what it was applied to, readily have been understood as **tun-st(e)all*, i.e. **tūn-st(e)all* 'site of a farm' with expected shortening of the first vowel before three consonants. This form showing shortening is demonstrably the source of *Tunstall* and variant forms, which is found, like *Dunstall*, only in names and not as a lexical word.²

This might solve the problem of the origin of *Dunstall* and of its alternation with *Tunstall*, if it were not for one thing. In most names where there is alternation between <t> and <d>, forms with <t> appear earlier than <d>; and that is precisely not what one would expect if *Dunstall* were the original form and *Tunstall* its analogically-based competitor. But if **tun-st(e)all* is original and **dun-st(e)all* the upstart, then no explanation suggests itself at all, and that is what ensures that my suggestion at least remains viable, however diffidently offered.

No serious attempt has been made before to explain this notorious crux of OE onomastic studies, and I offer this suggestion as a platform for further commentary or as a stalking-horse for a stronger explanation. Its importance for Sussex rests, for instance, on the fact that the Barcombe Roman villa was discovered in a field called *Dunstalls* (recorded only late), and, given that Towncil Field in North Hayling (Hampshire), a presumable **tūn-st(e)all* name (as first suggested by Ely 1908: 3), is the site of the great Iron Age/ Roman-period temple, a general survey of the archaeological significance of places bearing these names would be appropriate.

o Note

1 For sporadic approximate parallels, cf. Manton (Lincs.; OE **Malmtūn*), Manchester (Lancs., from RB **Mammucio*), Wansford (Northants.; OE **Welmesford*). These assimilations to the place of articulation of a following consonant are all from the medieval period, however, rather than from the Anglo-Saxon.

2 Just as the word is not found in OE, so none of the places so called are recorded before *Domesday book*. It is curious that in *DB* all nine of the *Dunstalls* and *Tunstalls* are written with a medial <e> between <n> and <s>, of which there is rarely any trace thereafter. I take this to be NF prothesis before syllable-initial [st-], and not a trace of some lost OE morphology.

○ *References*

Ely, Talfourd (1908) *Roman Hayling: a contribution to the history of Roman Britain* [second edition]. London: Taylor and Francis. [First edition 1904.]

Jackson, Kenneth H. (1953) *Language and history in early Britain*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

□□□

Richard Coates

N6.1.2 Swife and Swithe in Heathfield and Horsted Keynes

PN Sx (468) records a *Swife* at Broad Oak in Heathfield parish, where there was a corner and a farm (now oddly *Swiffes*, TQ 617229). This has early-modern and modern spellings of the type *Swyth(e)*. But the editors offer no explanation. The name clearly recurs in Swithe Wood in Horsted Keynes (TQ 395277), though I know of no early spellings for this. I presume the original final consonant must be [θ] rather than [ð], since it develops to [f] not [v].

Formally, it could be for an OE male personal name *Swīða* or a female *Swīðe*, but these are not actually in evidence; it could be a pet-form of a name such as *Swīðhūn*, but names in *swīð* are not very frequent, and it would be a great coincidence if this same pet-form cropped up only in two late-evidenced Sussex minor place-names. A purely formal alternative possibility is that they contain the common OE word *swīð* itself, the base of names like *Swīðhūn*. The trouble is that this is an adjective meaning ‘strong, powerful’, and that surely cannot be relevant. Moreover, map-references to *Swife* and the like suggest (but do not prove) that the word could serve as a noun. It cannot be related to the obsolete verb *swithe* ‘burn, scorch’, since that is of Scandinavian origin and neither it nor its relatives are attested in place-names south of Leicestershire.

However, a complicating factor is the existence of the similar element *swite* in some minor Surrey place-names. One is Swite’s Farm in Dorking (*PN Sr* 273; associated with *Swytefeld*, *Swytelond* and *Swytehach* in 1403; not located but said in *PN Sr* to be on the “old 6” map). The others are Swite’s Wood in Lingfield (332; TQ 400400), the lost *le Swytes* in Alfold (273), the lost *Swytelond* in Chiddingfold (273), and what the editors (366) regard as “[t]his word in its plural form” in the unlocalized modern field-names *Sweech(es)*, *Switch(es)*. Lingfield, Alfold and Chiddingfold are very close to the boundary with Sussex (within two miles or so), and the centre of Dorking is only seven miles away. These must surely be compared with the names in Heathfield and Horsted Keynes, despite the difference in the final consonant. We clearly have a regional word whose distribution bears comparison with that of **slāf* (Coates 2000).

The editors of *PN Sr* are tempted to compare the modern word *switch*, suggesting some such sense as ‘twig’ or ‘shoot’ as evidenced in *OED*; as they note, this word’s precise origin is not yet determined. Smith in *EPNE* (II, 172) takes the matter no further. But one would not have thought that a word meaning ‘twig, shoot’ would be sufficiently distinctive for the name of a wood or a field, nor that it could be used as an occasional generic.

Encouragingly, Hall (1957: 135) records a term *swaithe land*, said to be restricted to west Sussex, meaning ‘heavy clay or gault land’. This is taken from Jas. Fraser’s annotated copy of Parish (1875) in the possession of the SAS (Hall 1957: xiii-xiv), and may be relevant. Wright (1905: 127) records [əi] for ME [i:] in Hampshire, where Sussex has [ai] or [əi]; but the *LAE* (maps Ph103-118) shows [əi] predominating in the relevant words (such as *knife*, *five*, *time*), especially in east Sussex but in some words also in the west, whilst the west in general has [əi], along with Hampshire. Wright and *LAE* are not easy to reconcile, therefore, but it is not inconceivable that *swaithe* means [swaiθ] and that it represents a local outcome of what produced [swaiθ] elsewhere in Sussex. There are many areas of the English-speaking world where ME [i:] develops to [əi] before a voiceless consonant, as suggested here. However, the word Hall cites is of completely unknown origin.

An investigation of the geology, soil classification and agricultural land use of the relevant areas produces some interesting results. Three of the known places, those in Heathfield, Horsted Keynes and Lingfield, are on soils of the Curtisden association (Soil Survey class 572i; Jarvis *et al.* 1984: 131-7), elements of which are subject to seasonal waterlogging where the land is undrained. The most water-retentive may permit as few as 25 machinery-workable days between September and April. The typical agricultural regime on these associations is, not surprisingly, either permanent grassland or coppiceable woodland, and the agricultural land classification is typically 3, occasionally 4 (the poorest). Clearly it would be best to keep cattle off the least well drained, which would therefore tend to bear worked woodland. The parishes of Chiddingfold and Alfold, which contain unlocated instances of *Swyte(-)*, are on soils of the Wickham 5 association (class 711i; Jarvis *et al.* 304-8), which, like the Curtisden association, is subject to seasonal waterlogging and contains "silty ... Curtisden soils" (Jarvis *et al.* 305). These facts suggest that the place-names in question may reasonably be associated with the dialect term *swaithe* 'heavy land'.

On balance, then - and difficulties remain - it appears that these names contain an adjective related to Hall's *swaithe* which could be used elliptically, i.e. without a following noun, to mean '(land) with heavy soil'. The word is of unknown origin. The phonology of the alternation of the final consonant is not fully understood, but the original form is likely to have had [θ]. The vowel may well have been ME [i:]. The apparent possessive-case form *Swite's* in the Surrey names is likely to be a rationalization of a plural **swites* as most likely seen in the lost Alfold name.

○ *References*

- Coates, Richard (2000) An Old English technical term of woodland management in south-east England? *Lf* 4.2, 17-19.
- Hall, Helena (1957) *A dictionary of the Sussex dialect*. Bexhill: Gardner's. [Augmented version of Parish (1875).]
- Jarvis, M.G. and others (1984) *Soils and their use in south-east England*. Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales (bulletin 15).
- LAE* = Harold Orton and others (eds) (1978) *The linguistic atlas of England*. London: Croom Helm (jointly with other publishers).
- Wright, Joseph (1905) *The English dialect grammar*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

□□□

Passing interest

The National Portrait Gallery's "Ditchley portrait" of Elizabeth I by Marcus Gheeraerts the younger (c.1592; NPG 2561) shows Gloriana standing on a map of England with her feet planted firmly in Oxfordshire, but with Sussex in the foreground at the base of the portrait in front of her hugely hooped skirt. Several forests or woods (not all straightforwardly identifiable), the major rivers and 17 inhabited places are marked. The only names on the map are *SOVTHSEXIA*, *Chechister* and *Rye*. The other 15 inhabited places, unnamed, appear from comparison with Saxton's county map of 1583, on which the portrait's map is said to be based, his four-county map of 1575, and Speed's pocket atlas of 1627, to be: Stanstead, Arundel, Cowdray, Midhurst, ?Petworth (placed as if Fittleworth), Selsey, Horsham, ?West Tarring (or another village in the same region; Tarring is the most prominent on Saxton), New Shoreham, two places on the right bank of the Adur, presumably Steyning and Bramber but both displaced, Brighton, Lewes, East Grinstead and Buckhurst. The Ditchley portrait is conveniently to hand as the frontispiece to the first volume of Simon Schama's *A history of Britain* (BBC, 2000), but can be examined better, with the map enlarged, in Charles Saumarez Smith, *The National Portrait Gallery* (NPG, 1997).

• **QUERIES**

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

Pam Combes

Q6.1.1 Some Buxted names

The diversion from the activities mentioned in my personal statement on p. 3 was occasioned by a request for help addressed to Christopher Whittick, who recruited me to assist the search aimed at locating some fields in Buxted (Combes and Whittick (forthcoming)). In 1509 two pieces of land both relating to an iron furnace in Buxted, which was by then out of use, were granted to Thomas Hudson and Robert Mauncer. Fortunately Hudson's field was named; *Jenensy or Jenynsy Medue* (PRO SC2/206/34 f.121, 128v; microfilm ESRO XA 77). Two fields called *Jennys Mead* and *Jennys Mead Hop Garden* in 1840 (ESRO TD/E 135), although not the same land as the original grant, can be securely associated with it. The location proves that this early furnace site was at, or close by, what is now known as *Iron Plat Furnace* (Straker 1931: 390), now largely part of Totease Farm. The furnace plat itself is owned as part of New House Farm. A later owner, George Burgess, purchased land called *Pursers and Hammercroft* (ESRO ADA 137 41). Although the name *Hammercroft* no longer survived in 1840, the former is probably to be associated with *Upper and Lower Percys*. This fine collection of names associated with iron working is further enhanced by *Minepit Wood* which lies adjacent to Jennys Mead Hop Garden (see map of conveyance of 1859).

In 1840 the field-name Iron Plat was used not only for the furnace site but also for the works site at Howbourne Forge. The name seems to have been used as a general term to describe the working area of these former industrial sites, and it appears that Straker appropriated the term to identify an otherwise unnamed furnace site. But there are now clues to the original name. In 1537 Thomas Hudson was liable to pay water scot on three acres of land in the hammerpond at *Queenstoke* (ESRO GLY 84). Queen Stock Brook and Queen Stock Meadow lie just upstream from Iron Plat so it is possible that the original name of the works at or near Iron Plat was *Queenstock*.

I have not found the term *plat* used commonly in downland parishes. It is used frequently in Buxted. Is it a Wealden term, or is that bias imagined?

(i) *Jennys Mead*

Jenensy and Jenynsy Medue 4 acres of land (1509; PRO SC2/206/34 f 128v
(microfilm ESRO XA 77))

Jenens Eye and Jenens Eye Meade (1608; ESRO ADA 137, 42)

Jennys mead and Jennys mead hop garden (1849; ESRO TD/E 135)

The original name appears to contain (the descendant of) the element *īeg* 'island, dry land in marsh', presumably combined with (a variant of) the surname *Jennings*. Are there any other suggestions about the first element? The tithe-map references are of interest; by then the name had been transferred. It is probable that the original grant was of land by or part of the former furnace pond, with the river on one side and possibly a spillway on the other the site would have formed an *eye*. Jennys Mead and Jennys Mead Hop Garden are well up from the stream and are too large to be associated with the original grant, but the pond field which was just over 3½ acres fits the description. The entry in the Framfield court book describes in detail changes in the field-names and, presumably, the boundaries when this land was acquired, demonstrating the ever-changing nature of fields in the Weald.

(ii) *Slags in Lower Othems*

Slags in Lower Othems (ESRO TD/E 135)

Straker knew the name and records that no slag was visible on the field. He comments that *cinder* is the term used here for the furnace waste. It is clear that the name should be *Lag*, a term used extensively in Sussex for a narrow strip of land adjacent to a river or stream (Parish 1875). Are there any suggestions regarding the parent field-name *Othems*?

(iii) *Iron Plat*

Iron Plat (ESRO TD/E 135)

Is this the earliest record of this name for the site of the furnace?

(iv) *Quenstokbrege*

Quenstokbrege (1509)

Queens Stock and Queenstockbridge (1840; ESRO ADA 126, 54)

This land and the associated bridge lie within the archbishop of Canterbury's manor (and liberty) of South Malling - no queen would have enjoyed the benefits of jurisdiction there. Could it be derived from the rights of Queen Eleanor as lord of the rape of Pevensey to drive stock through the liberty of the archbishop? Is there any other likely derivation?

o *References*

Combes, Pam and Christopher Whittick (2002) Iron Plat, Queenstock hammer-pond and a 15th-century ironworking site at Buxted. *Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG) Bulletin* (2nd series) 22 (forthcoming).

Parish, W.D. (1875) *A dictionary of the Sussex dialect*. Lewes: Farncombe and Co. Straker, Ernest (1931) *Wealden iron*. London: G. Bell and sons.

□□□

David Padgham

Q6.1.2 Some Westfield names

The following are a group of new queries centred on Westfield (a place for which I am collecting material for a parish history, though I begin to doubt whether it will be completed).

(i) The Roman road running south-east from Sedlescombe Bridge (*Lf*N5.2.1) enters Westfield up what is now called *Chapel Hill*, then passes Harts Green. In Hastings Museum "abstracts" of Milward documents which were recently transferred to ESRO, the northern portion of the later Harts Green Farm at the top of the [Roman] hill (TQ 788169) is "land and tenements called Stonelepe" in 1534 (bundle 34,2), but *Stoneuphill* in 1615 (bundle 34,5). In the cartouche of a 1767 estate plan reproduced by the Ordnance Survey (undated, 1930s?; OS ref. A.O.600), this has become *Stony Uphill Farm*. In view of the frequent occurrence of *stone* in association with Roman roads, the later forms are more supportive of a name for the hilly road but what is the meaning of *Stonelepe*? Among many interpretations of *hlīep(e)* and its relatives in *EPNE*(I, 251) is 'steep place, sudden

drop in ground', which well matches the landscape as there is a deep ghyll running through it almost down to river level at Blackbrooks.

(ii) The southern portion of Harts Green Farm (TQ 792167) in the same documents is *Echam* in 1615 (bundle 34,5); in 1647 this is *Eacham* (34,12) though in the 1767 estate plan it has become *Egham*. Harts Green itself - a tiny roadside plot - is *Eacham Green* in 1647 but *Echam Green* in 1653 (34,15). This minor *ham(m)* name appears to be otherwise unrecorded. Could the first element be from OE *ēaca* 'addition' as in *EPNE* (I, 145) under **īcecls* 'land added to an estate'?

(iii) The lane dividing Stonelepe from Eacham is *New England Lane* (PN Sx 506, not indexed) where a link is suggested with the lost and unexplained *Inlegh*. However *Inlegh* has re-emerged recently as a tenement in rentals of Wilting Manor (ESRO RAF box 113, unlisted) from 1664 and fossilised down to 1873, and its descent to Lamb of Beauport in the 19th century places it further south than *New England* - perhaps as or including Irelands Farm. There are several other examples of *New England* in Sussex; I do not know if they have been looked at collectively but in Westfield the ME *inning* (*EPNE* I, 304) 'piece of land taken in or enclosed' seems more appropriate than the American association proposed in *EFN* (148).

○ *Editor's note*

As to *Eacham*: if the OE word *ēaca* were implicated, the name would have become **Eckham*. The passive participle of the OE verb *īecan* (ME *ēchen*) 'to increase', viz. *īeced* 'increased', might have done the trick, but that depends on a first record being late enough for the participial suffix to have been obliterated. Purely formally, the best solution is *āce/ēce* 'eternal'; but that clearly raises semantic problems.

□□□

Richard Coates

Q6.1.3 Shine in Sussex names

Two names sharing an element which have (has) not received explanation are *The Shine* (Iford) and *Shinewater* (Eastbourne). The first is recorded as *ye Shine* on John de Ward's plan of the Lower Ouse Levels (1620; ESRO A2187). The word *shine* as a noun is not on record before about 1509, and *sheen* (for which *shine* could in principle be a Sussexism, as in the case of the place-name element *-ly(e)* for *-ley*) not before 1602. *Sheen* as an adjective 'beautiful, bright' dates back to OE and beyond. What are the origin and precise structure of these two names, and when is *Shinewater* first recorded?

□□□

Margaret Thorburn

Q6.1.4 Hides and clouts at Southease

Why are there two separate words used for meadowland at Southease in the lower Ouse valley (TQ 425054)? From the Thomas Budgen map of 1791 (ESRO A5179/28), the clouts could refer to the allotted pieces of one or two acres, which are ditched and drained. The hides are divided into larger areas of meadowland without division by frequent ditches. But why *hides*? Tenants from Telscombe with no meadowland, and tenants from South Heighton on the east of the river Ouse, had, along with Southease tenants, rights "to cut and away" [i.e. hay] (Figg 1850).

○ References

Budgen, Thomas (1791; rev. William Figg 1827) Survey and admeasurement of Lewes and Laughton Levels. ESRO SW 12/1/1, 15.

Figg, William (1850) Manorial customs of Southease with Heighton near Lewes. *SAC* 3, 250.

○ *Editor's note*

There was also a *Clouts furlong* in the north laine of Rottingdean in the 18th century; this was therefore not meadowland. The surname *Clout* is known in the same village.

□□□

Richard Coates

Q6.1.5 Exotic Peacehaven

Modern local maps of Peacehaven show the strange name *Bear's Hide* between The Promenade and the cliff-edge. I have never met a bear there, dead or alive, and wonder what credence to give to an explanation given to me by (I think it was) Bob Copper that it is a folk-etymological transformation of *Bare Side*. That's not impossible, but I don't know of any local parallels; place-name use of OE *sīde* and its descendants is far commoner in the NCy than the SCy.

At the eastern outskirts of the town, still in the former parish of Piddinghoe, is Rushy Hill. I was aware that Rudyard Kipling, in his posthumous memoir *Something of myself* (Macmillan, 1937), referred to it as *Russia Hill*. There's no way of resolving which is closer to the original form without without older spellings. But it might be that the name of the hill, if really ancient, was Old English *risc-ōra* 'rush', 'hill with a round-shouldered profile'. If it was, then we have the oddity that Kipling was slightly nearer the origin (as regards pronunciation) than local tradition, since you would expect my proposed form to come out in modern Sussex dialect as "Rusher" (though with a good Sussex final [r]).

Can anyone confirm or reject either of these two suggestions? Thanks to Douglas d'Enno for provoking this query.



• **QUICK RESPONSES TO QUERIES, ARTICLES
AND PUBLIC ENQUIRIES**

R6.1.1 Firle yet again [ref. article in *Lf* 1.3, 12-14 (Pam Combes)]

David Padgham notes:

The latest version of Richard Coates's article on Firle (Coates and Breeze 2000: 44-53) reminded me of another 13th-century reference which does not seem to have been mentioned by him or in recent work by Pam Combes (*Lf* 1.3, 12-14), in the chartulary of Chichester cathedral (*SRS* 46: 66-67). Coates quotes from *PN Sx* (359) a mention of East Firle (2000: 44), but this Chichester document refers to *Little Ferles* as part of the prebend, and indicates that it included Birling, which enlarges the extent of Firle still further, well east of the Cuckmere. I cannot find any useful detailed account of the origin of the Chichester prebends, though it must be recorded somewhere.

○ *Reference*

Coates, Richard and Andrew Breeze (2000) *Celtic voices, English places*. Stamford: Shaun Tyas.

□□□

R6.1.2 Conifunte in Guestling (correctly Westfield) [ref. Q5.2.1 (Martin Blake; addendum by Christopher Whittick)]

David Padgham reports:

Two estate maps show what I believe are later version of the "wood of Kunifunte", reported from the 13th century by Christopher Whittick, enabling me to locate the spring itself; it is actually just in Westfield parish at TQ 9826014565, and it is still marked on the latest OS Explorer map sheet 124. It was previously described on the first OS 6" plan of 1873 as a well.

ESRO AMS 5840 is a very large estate plan of Coghurst in Guestling dated 1668, but I have a photocopy of the relevant corner of it (see figure 1; the poor quality of the reproduction is acknowledged). In one corner is *The Cuney Head Wood*. By the date of Westfield Tithe Award map (1843) it had been absorbed in the adjacent Popland Wood (earlier *Popeltons Wood*) so the name is lost. The 1668 name *Cuney Head* must imply a well-head (cf. *Springhead*, a Roman site in North Kent) whose ancient name was still in use but by then meaningless. The position of the spring is just off the plan, marked by a star, as can be seen by comparing figure 2, a sketch plan of the area. I note that no suggestion as to the meaning was offered in query Q5.2.1; 'rabbit' seems improbable, though another 18th-century document has corrupted it to *Coney Burrow Wood*, no doubt in an attempt at rationalization.

Whittick says this was part of the endowment of the almoner of Battle Abbey at Maxfield; the area later became the manor of Hoselands, and then as Eighteen Pounder Farm was attached to Coghurst Manor.

It may be significant that at this point on the Westfield-Guestling road a still traceable hollow way diverged to Maxfield, making a convenient short cut for travellers from Battle Abbey; Maxfield was their retreat and place of convalescence. The spring is almost at the junction, just off the present road. Regrettably it is not now accessible as the landowner is antagonistic to all comers, and I last saw the spring some thirty year ago so recollections of detail are vague.

I have previously suggested (Padgham 1999: 14), on the basis of *Comp* names nearby on the Westfield border, that Maxfield was the site of a Roman villa estate; does the location of a *funta* at

the corner of the approach-road add support to this proposal? There is slight evidence that the present highway is Roman in origin.

Whittick suggests a larger extent of *Kunifunte*, and the wood south of the main road supports this as it is also *The Coney Head Wood* on the plan of 1770 of the lands of Mr Lovell Gladwish; this is one of the Ordnance Survey reproductions, undated but I believe *c.* 1930s (O.S. ref. A.O.611; ESRO has a copy under ref. A2844). Most of this wood is in Ore parish but a small part adjoining the road is in Westfield; on the 1843 Tithe Award map the later is unusually described as "Part of Wood Opposite", but in the Ore tithe map the larger part is only *Eight Acre Wood*. The implication is that *Kunifunte* was at least 13 acres in extent, astride the road at the junction of three parishes, though I am not aware that Battle Abbey held the southern portion. I feel there must be some significance in the way the historic parish boundary diverges from the Doleham Ditch to take in this point, running undefined to the crest of the hill and then returning along the road back to the watercourse.

○ *Acknowledgement*

I am indebted to William Dance, a local historian, for reminding me of these estate plans which we originally obtained for another purpose. The reproduction of part of MS. AMS 5840 as figure 1 is by kind permission of ESRO.

○ *Reference*

Padgham, David (1999) *Where was Westfield Roman villa?* *Lf* 3.1, 14-16.



Figure 1: Part of an estate plan of Coghurst (Guestling), ESRO AMS 5840 (1668)

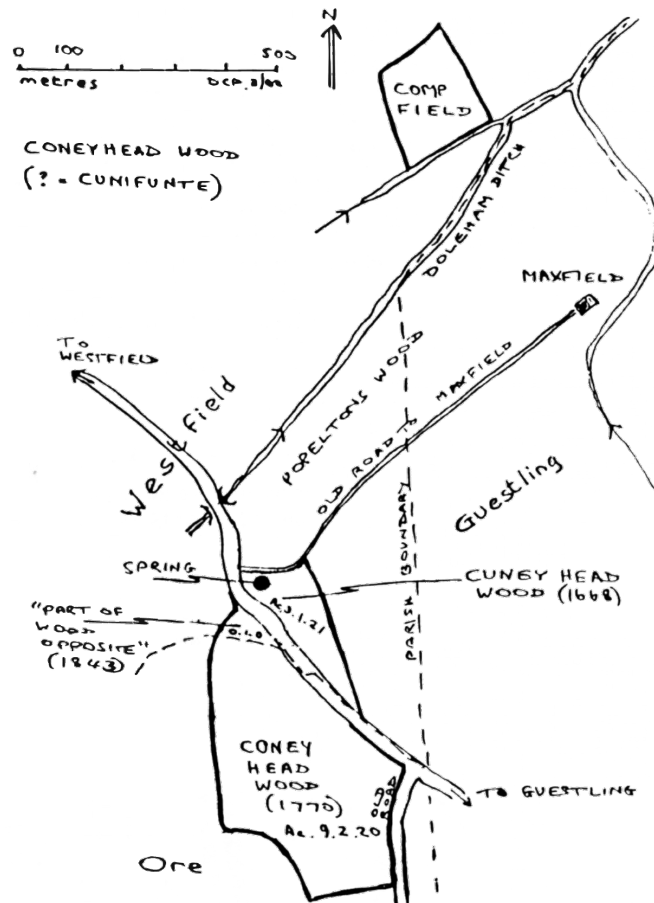


Figure 2: Sketch plan of part of Westfield (David Padgham)

□□

R6.1.3 Michelham vindicatum

Richard Coates replies to a query from Michelham Priory about the place-name itself

Michelham is OE *micel* + *hamm*. *Micel* is ‘big’; *hamm* meant originally ‘hemmed-in land’, and was typically applied to land that could be accessed from only one of four directions. Land in a river-bend or -loop is the most obvious site answering this description. The term could also be applied to wet land hemmed in by higher ground, and more loosely to river-meadows and cultivated plots on the edge of moorland or woodland (LPN 46-9, summarizing earlier scholarship). So the sense of *hamm* weakened over the centuries until it was practically equivalent to just ‘enclosure’, but that is probably a late and loose development. The focus seems to have shifted from naturally hemmed-in land to artificially hemmed-in land, or at least to being neutral about the nature of the obstacle. Which is the precise application at Michelham largely depends on when the name was coined, and that we don’t know. But the place sits in a fine river-bend, so the explanation in the guide-book based on this is probably quite acceptable. ‘Large piece of hemmed-in land’ is the most neutral translation.

R6.1.4 Velvats Furlong, Kingston near Lewes, again [ref. N5.2.5 (Margaret Thorburn)]

Michael Leppard suggests as an alternative that this name may include the surname *Velvick* or *Velfeck* appearing in East Grinstead documents in the 1590s (e.g. parish register 1593), and enshrined in the TA field-name(s) *Velvets*. This must be a form of *Fieldwick*, a well-attested local surname, in its vernacular pronunciation. The surname may be associated with what is now Old Place in West Hoathly (*PN Sx* 273).

□□□

R6.1.5 Knockhundred Row again [ref. R5.2.4 (Richard Coates)]

Against Richard Coates's perhaps libellous attack on the sobriety of Midhurst, **David Padgham** suggests a more prosaic connection with the hundred meeting-place; *VCH* (IV, 40) says the hundred court of Easebourne met during the 13th century under a certain ash-tree at Midhurst, and in the 1296 subsidy rolls Midhurst is called a hundred. A logical place for the meeting would be on the castle mound, behind the library opposite the east end of Knockhundred Row. This is the oldest part of the town.

□□□

R6.1.6 Some reflections on searches using LION [ref. article in *Lf* 5.2, 15-25 (Richard Coates)]

Michael Leppard rebuts the Editor's suggestion in *Lf* 5.2 that the name *Gossops Green* in Ifield derives from that of Mrs Dudeney's novel *Gossips Green*. There is a reference to the place, spelt *Gossepps Green*, dating from 1855 (WSRO Par. 109/20/2; see *SRS* 66: 60), and the surname *Gossip/Gossop* is found in the Rye area from 1548 (*SRS* 36) to at least 1609. Since Mr Leppard had already told the Editor of these facts some years previously, a handsome apology is required and delivered. Any relationship between Mrs Dudeney and Ifield parish appears to be the reverse of what I proposed.

Mr Leppard reminds us further that *Bo-Peep* in Alciston is matched in name by a railway tunnel and junction in St Leonards. He also makes the perfectly reasonable suggestion that, far from *Canadia* necessarily being a literary reference, it may simply be back-formed from the adjective *Canadian*, the whole concept implying 'the back of beyond'. The two views may be reconciled by taking the adjective to be the source or licence for the name as used in literary works too. On this name, **David Padgham** observes that the first entry of the name in Pike's *Hastings & St Leonards Directory* (Brighton: Garnett, Mephram & Fisher (annual)) was in 1930, as a small roadside cafe called *Canadia Tea Rooms*; the side lane first took the name *Canadia Lane* in 1935; the whole hamlet is 20th-century.

Mr Padgham also recalls another *Rat's Castle* in addition to the one at Wartling. During World War II, Ore Place in Hastings became an Army Record Office known colloquially by this name; soldiers and civilians posted there were thought to be avoiding active service! In Westfield there are other "castles": tenements called *Hop Pole Castle* and *Owls Castle*. The happy owners no doubt recalled the rhyming game "king of the castle" [or an Englishman's home - Ed.] in naming their modest homes.

From the newspapers

John Radford

A builder's yard by any other name

o *Acknowledgement*

This item first appeared as the greater part of a column in the *West Sussex Gazette*, 28/02/2002, and is reprinted here with the author's permission. John Radford presents the show "Breakfast live in Sussex" on BBC Southern Counties Radio, which is the programme referred to in the column.

It's amazing, isn't it, what gets people worked up? Place-names featured prominently [in] last week's programme], starting with the naming of a new residential road at Berner's Hill near Flimwell in the parish of Ticehurst.

The land was formerly the premises of a builder called Clark and is known locally as *Clark's Yard*. The parish council is very happy with this but the developer thinks it's a bit down-market, and wants to rename it *Clark's View*.

The council retorted that it sounds a bit twee but offered to find some sort of compromise. The developer was less keen, unlike several people who called in or sent emails after the item. Michael in Ardingly called to suggest it simply be called *Clarks* (without the apostrophe) as happens with *Holmans* in Ardingly (also a former builder's yard) - discreetly up-market? Nadine in Barnham suggested placating both sides by calling it *Clark's Yard View*, but Pat in Eastbourne seemed to hit the mark by saying that it should be named according to the wishes of local people and not a developer whose main interest, presumably, is profit. Jean in Cooden also came out in favour of *yard*. She'd researched her family history in Herefordshire and found that there was a place called *Baynham Yard* after her great-grandfather who'd had a builder's yard there almost 200 years ago - living history, indeed.

Next it was the turn of Bognor Regis, with the suggestion (originally made by the Chamber of Commerce) that the town should simply be called *Bognor*, as few people knew what the *Regis* meant or what its history was. [Whatever happened to school? - Ed.] The Rev. Ken (a regular caller), now in St Leonard's but born and bred in Bognor, agreed. But he was alone. Various Bognorians called in with their views: Joy was "disgusted" and Ian and Brian agreed with her. Terry was equally disgusted, but not with the debate over the name of the town. If people want to campaign about something, he said, why don't they complain about graffiti, vandalism, and the poor state of public amenities in the town?

Well, like I said, it's amazing what gets people worked up.



• ARTICLES

David Padgham

Minor place-names in the lost settlement of Bulverhythe

By way of background to two recent minor archaeological investigations in the area of this deserted medieval village, I have collected a number of stray references to its confused history. The results were published in my local journal (Padgham 2001) and several minor medieval place-names emerged which are unlikely to be assembled elsewhere; as a decayed parish, it has no Tithe Award survey and no useful estate plans have been located. Part of the map accompanying this article is reproduced below (figure 1, p. 20), covering the central area of Bulverhythe parish and liberty.

Bulverhythe itself is accepted as *Burhwara hyð*, the river landing-place of the burgesses [of Hastings Cinque Port liberty] (Gardiner 1999: 18). There was a small manor of Bulverhythe which in the 14th century also owned a pasture called *le Doune* (VCH IX, 21); there is little space for downland in the marshy parish, but a neat identification would be the field *Bulverdowns* in the adjacent Hollington which is not otherwise explained (Hollington Tithe Award 1843, parcel 233 at TQ 782119 - now part of Castleham Playing Fields). Both Bulverhythe manor and this area of Hollington ultimately passed to the Pelham family, integrating ownership of the field and the adjacent land.

The Hastings custumal was recorded by the bailiff in 1356 as "usages time out of mind"; the original is lost but a late 15th-century copy is preserved in the records of Rye Corporation (ESRO RYE 57/1) and this was translated in SAC 14 (1862): 73. Felons were ordered "to be cast beyond a certain watercourse called Stordisdale on the western part of the town towards Bolewarheth". (It is usually assumed that they were actually cast in, rather than beyond, and drowned; I have not inspected the original AN text.) The stream now called the Combe Haven must be intended here; no early names are recorded for it. (The name *Asten* sometimes found in local literature is believed to be a poetic back-formation from *Hastings* itself; the earliest use located is by Drayton (1622) and he may have coined it.) *Stordisdale* sounds as though it should be in the north of England; it is unlikely to be the actual name of a watercourse as stated in the custumal, but the bailiff may well not have known the original meaning after generations of customary usage. *Dæl* can scarcely be 'pit' or 'gulf' in this low-lying area, as supposed in most Sussex examples (LPN 112) but must be the valley itself - a broad marshy one - leaving *stordis* which sounds, equally improbably for Sussex, more like ON *storð* 'brushwood' than the OE equivalent *ströd* as in *Strood* (Kent). The alternative would be an entirely unknown early name for the stream itself.

In a grant of 1370 (SNQ 3 (1930): 56), John atte Havene of Bolwarthethe conveyed to John Hoomas of the said vill a tenement called *the Sedde* in Bolwarthethe, lying between the water checking called *the Stennenwelle* east, the King's street from Borham to Hastings south, the King's way to the church of Bolwarthethe west and the lane called *The Chawceye* leading from the church to Hastings north. (These abutments approximate to the plot where the Bull Inn still stands.) I can suggest no meaning for *The Sedde*, but *Stennenwelle* indicates a stony stream (*stānen*, *wiell(a/e)*; 'well' or 'spring' are geologically less probable on the shingle here); immediately east of this spot such a feature survived between Bexhill Road and the railway until development, and the area regularly floods because it is below high tide level. *The Chawceye* I take to be standard French for the AN *causey* (modern *causeway*) - OED-2, sb. 2.: "a raised way... across a hollow, esp. low wet ground". Bexhill Road follows a shingle ridge which at some date must have ponded up the ancient harbour. This might lead back to an interpretation of a place-name in Count Henry of Eu's charter to the College of St Mary in Hastings Castle (1095-1140), which contains many badly corrupted location-names. The prebend of William Fitz Alek (later the Prebend of

Bulverhythe) included "two yardlands at Cistelelonga [and] the Chapel of Bulverhythe" (SRS 46: 300). Variant readings of the text were compared by Dawson (1909, I: 21 (also II: 380)): *Long Cistele*, *Casteleboga*, *Castlebogram*. The two last can be ignored, but *Long Cistele* if from *cisel* 'gravel or shingle' must be an earlier name for *The Chawceye*; compare *Chesil Bank* (PN Do I, 218).¹

In 1405 in an inhibition from Henry IV to the bishop of Chichester (SRS 6: 86) the prebendary of Bolwarhith held the tithes from "a certain place called *Wassh*"; if this is *wæsce* 'place for washing sheep, etc.', we need look no further than Sheepwash Bridge, on the eastern boundary of Bulverhythe where the Combe Haven stream crosses Bexhill Road.

In 1591 some of the manor lands were sold by Thomas Pelham to Thomas Eversfield, described as "Marshland called The Butts or Buttplaces ... a croft called the Beane Gardens, and lands sometymes highways or lanes ... within the decayed town of Bulverhythe" (Dell, 1964: 184). The marshland called *Butts or Buttplaces* is possibly the landfill area north of Bexhill Road; 'land used for archery' (EFN 34) appears the most appropriate meaning, and by coincidence the local archery club met nearby within recent years. *Beane Gardens* is presumably self-explanatory.

In c. 1600 Sir Thomas Pelham gave evidence to an enquiry as to his title to Hastings Castle lands quoting "The Boundaries taken of Bulverhith" (Dawson, 1909, 389) which can be dated from internal evidence as having been taken c. 1528. In 1746 Samuel Cant, the Hastings schoolmaster and surveyor, prepared a map of the same boundaries (copy in Hastings Public Library), now marked by stones, and the two sets of perambulations can be matched at several points. Pelham began "at the seaside at Gallowshill or Galley Hill Gate by a hedge between Gallowdown and a field called the Breach to the upper corner of a brook called the Black Brook (near Glynde Gap)". Cant began more simply at "the point of meeting between Bexhill and Sea Gate Road". This confirms local tradition that Galley Hill (in Bexhill parish; not in *PN Sx*) is indeed the site of the old gallows - for Bexhill, since Hastings had none before the reign of Edward IV (1461-83) as felons were drowned at *Stordisdale* (above).

Galley Hill Gate and Sea Gate are probably both the place now known as *Glyne Gap*, almost a breach of the coastline at high tides - which explains the now lost field seaward of the gap called *the Breach* in 1528.

The name of Glynde (in Bexhill) has never been satisfactorily explained, but it is local to Sussex and Wittersham (Kent) (see *Lf* 3.2, 8; 4.1, 15).

Black Brook as the name of water-meadow occurs elsewhere locally; a larger tract is in Westfield, held of Robertsbridge Abbey (founded 1250). One of them was the outland of Bexhill minster in Offa's charter (772) (Kelly 1998: 107), who, following *PNSx*, suggests that the Westfield area is the Bexhill outland. However Gardiner (1989: 45-46) points out that these church lands were transferred to the College in Hastings Castle, and that a third of the tithe of the former Bexhill outland of Blackbrook was received by the prebend of Bulverhythe (the other two-thirds going to the prebend of Stone which held land within the Castle parish). It is possible that the lesser-known Bulverhythe Black Brook is the college land; these all reverted to the see of Chichester in 1148 and could have been re-granted to Robertsbridge. Cant's 1746 perambulation at its east end followed "a tradeway" which on his map is the drainage channel flowing east to the Combe Haven. This sense is not in *OED-2*, which gives only (under *trade*, sb., compound listed in § 16) '(a) ?beaten path, passage, throughfare; (b) the fairway of navigation'. Perhaps Cant regarded this channel as a formerly navigable route out of the silted-up harbour, as certainly there was no thoroughfare here.

o *Note*

1 This name is absent from the discussion of names containing *cisel* by Cole (1999).

○ *References*

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○ *Editor's note*

Formally, the first element of *Stordisdale* might be the surname *Sturdy*, from OF *esto(u)rdi(t)* 'reckless, violent'; the sense of this word when borrowed into ME as *sturdi* and the like was 'recklessly brave'. Can anyone confirm this surname in Sussex at a sufficiently early date, as neither the author nor I can? Guppy's pioneering study traced it to Yorkshire only. Note, however, that Mr Padgham is sceptical of any post-Conquest name becoming applied to this broad valley. *The Sedd* may contain a descendant of OE *sēað* 'pit' (certainly in use till the 13th century), showing Sussex [d] for [ð]; the shortening of the vowel would be due to the 15th/16th-century process seen in *death*, *deaf* and *red*, and if this proposal is right the name must therefore be earlier than that. But the applicability of the word at this spot in Bulverhythe is not confirmed.

□□□



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M.J. Leppard

Continuing the matter of twitten

What follows is intended to contribute to the discussion of *twitten* in progress in *Lf* [Q1.3.4, N2.1.3, R2.1.4, R2.2.7, N3.2.5, N4.1.2, R5.1.3 (various authors)], drawing on evidence from East Grinstead and the neighbouring parish of Lingfield (Surrey). Examples of its recent "escape" into general use and of words of related meaning and apparently related origin used elsewhere in the country are given, followed by an attempt to relate its application in East Grinstead to the evidence and interpretations already advanced in *Lf*.

In his copy of Cooper (1853: 83-4), J.M. Neale (1818-66), Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead from 1846 to 1866, added "and E. Grinstead" to the places cited as having thoroughfares so called, no doubt thinking particularly of the two narrow passages then and now through Middle Row in the High Street. This is corroborated by Edward Steer (1845-1925) in his recollections of the town in the second half of the 1850s (Steer 1899): "passing through the 'twitten' between Mr. Fowle's and Misses Payne's" [10 and 11 Middle Row]. His inverted commas indicate awareness that it is dialect, not used by and possibly not even familiar to all his readers.

As the town began to be built up in the second half of the century the word was naturally applied to the path from London Road to the Playfield, officially Institute Walk west of Cantelupe Road and Vicarage Walk east of it, but still today normally referred to as *The Twitten*. The first written reference I know is in Cullen (1928): "Here is Institute Walk ('Twitten')." The official name cannot be older than the building of the Institute at its western end in 1887. Vicarage Walk I have first noted in *c.* 1891 on a map I possess of the Chequer Mead Estate being developed at that time. In Steer's boyhood in the 1850s, however, it was still a path across fields and known as *the back fields path*; it could not be *a* or *the twitten* until enclosed by fences/walls/railings. This seems to be a parallel to what happened in Rottingdean, where the 19th-century Back Lane or Back Way became *The Twitten* in the later 20th century (Richard Coates, pers. comm.).

A third application of the word is found in the town guide issued in *c.* 1933: Mount Noddy is "accessible by what is known as 'The Twitten' near the Literary and Scientific Institute".

Similar wording is used in the editions of *c.* 1947 and 1951. This refers to the path which on the 1873 OS map ran across two fields (and was therefore not a twitten) over a footbridge into Moat Road but which by the time of the 1931 map was hedged or fenced on both sides (and so was a twitten). It still survives for a short stretch between two houses in Christopher Road. The inverted commas seem semi-apologetic, as if the popular name was seen as outmoded or provincial.

In Lingfield, Gordon Jenner (1980: 10) calls the path from the High Street to the church *The Twitten*, both in his pre-First-World-War boyhood and in the caption to a modern photograph of it (11) which, in clearly showing the walls either side, beautifully illustrates the word's meaning. Mr D. Gould tells me it was still habitually so called by staff and pupils at the village school in the late 1950s and early 60s. In the 1955 edition of the official guide to Godstone Rural District, F.A.R. Wiltshire says (20) the daughter of the landlord of the Star asked him, "Did you notice the twitten as you came along?" Remembering "that a twitten, in Sussex at least, is a narrow alley between houses", he said Yes and took particular notice on his way back, recording that "it runs between the village pond and some cottages". This is not the same path as Jenner's and may not even have been the one meant, for it is not high-sided.

Further afield, Connex South Central's June 1997 publicity leaflet for the Ashford-Hastings line mentions the latter place's "Old Town with its distinctive lanes, 'twittens' and half-timbered houses". A friend born in Hastings in 1932 tells me that, to the best of his memory, the word was not used there in his boyhood but came in later. The leaflet's inverted commas imply that it is a local word likely to be unfamiliar to outsiders. In the same year an article on Sandwich in Kent in the 23-30 July edition of *Time Out* mentions its "narrow streets and twittens" without seeing any need for either inverted commas or explanation. I don't know if the word is used there; it certainly does not appear in the guidebook to Sandwich that I bought in 1978. If *twitten* is becoming accepted into common use, perhaps that it because there is no exact equivalent in standard English.

(*Alley* is less precise.) That, however, raised the question "Why our word rather than those of identical meaning used in other parts of the country?" An answer that has been suggested is the links that many London-based people in the media have with Brighton.

I have, however, been told that *twitten* is used at St Andrews in Scotland (R.J. Cook, pers. comm.). *Twitchel*, defined as 'a narrow passage between houses', first recorded in the 15th century, *twitten* and *twitton* are all in Gepp's *Essex dialect dictionary* (1923: 119) or the addendum compiled by Appleby (1969: 19) for its reprinting. *Twitchell* is still used in Saffron Walden in that county, and in Royston on the Hertfordshire/Cambridgeshire border the information boards in the street say *twitchell* is the local name for narrow streets and passages. Oxford's Kybald Twychen seems to contain a related word, though it is (now if not anciently) a cul-de-sac rather than an alley. Cooper (1853: 83) says that *twitchil* is applied generally in Hallamshire and in towns in Yorkshire exactly as *twitten* is in Sussex towns.

The Hastings and Chichester evidence cited by Christopher Whittick (*LfN2.1.3*) sorts well with what is known of the use of *twitten* in 19th-century East Grinstead. Middle Row was built up piecemeal in the highway from about 1394 onwards (Wood and Gray 1990: 182); its *twittens* represent patches of the highway remaining as public rights of way. Moreover Middle Row is said in a later document to have been built on the lord's waste.¹ *Waste*, both here and in Hastings, denotes land that has not been brought into cultivation or developed with buildings.

I am not sure, however, that Mr Whittick is to be followed in taking 'path' as the secondary meaning of *twitten* rather than the original. The surnames found in 1296 that he mentions and the group of A.D. 956 relating to Pyrford in Surrey mentioned by Paul Cullen (*LfR2.2.7*) make 'path' or 'lane' seem more likely. M.T. Lfvenberg's inference that the term is related to German *Twiete*, 'lane, alley', from the same root as *zwei* 'two' (reported by Cullen in *LfN4.1.2*) seems to my inexpert mind eminently probable since all uses of *twitten* in all its forms imply an element of "between-ness" and the same root is found in *(be)twee(n)* as in *two* and *zwei* and all the words related to them.

○ *Acknowledgements*

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○ *Note*

1 Earl De La Warr's abstract of title to High Street properties, 1881 (WSRO, W.H. Hills MSS.).

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Obituary: Joseph Pettitt (1909-99)

M.J. Leppard

Joseph Pettitt was, amongst other things, one of the founders of the Wealden Iron Research Group. This led him to investigate place-name evidence for the industry, especially in the Buxted/Heathfield area, where he was team leader. For this he was well fitted, both as a schoolmaster teaching history and English and because his father had been born in Heathfield and then lived in Framfield and Hadlow Down. Joe's boyhood home was in Tunbridge Wells, with holidays at his mother's parents in Hartfield. Not surprisingly he was also interested in dialect, not only its vocabulary but also its pronunciation, something he was alert to in place-names (including the phenomenon of final stress). I had some correspondence with him on all these topics in the early days of WIRG and have now acquired his annotated copy of the East Sussex volume of *PN Sx* and also of Parish's and Helena Hall's Sussex dialect dictionaries. If **Net** members have any research topics or queries that he might possibly have touched on, I shall be happy to look them up in his books.

Editor's note: In view of the long-running interest in the allegedly iron-relevant name *Mount Noddy*, especially in the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society*, readers may like to know that Joe Pettitt wrote to me on 19 January 1993 to say he had done some work on this many years ago "but came to no conclusion. I once wrote to the late Dr L F Salzman, doyen of Sussex Local Historians and one-time Ed *VCH*; I suggested OE *ad* (*long a*) ['burning-place'; now usually thought of as 'limekiln' - RC], ME 'at then ode', etc., etc.... He wrote back saying, 'Noddy is short for Nicodemus and ask Enid Blyton.'

It was also he who informed me that Wealden signposts were once called *bishops' fingers*. Why bishops'?

□□□



• REVIEW

Pam Combes

Review of *Sussex depicted: views and descriptions 1600-1800*. Edited by John H. Farrant, with the assistance of John Bleach, Timothy J. McCann, Christopher Whittick and Peter Wilkinson. Lewes: Sussex Record Society, vol. 85 (2001).

This handsome volume was published to celebrate the centenary of the Sussex Record Society. It complements the volume *Sussex views from the Burrell collection, 1776-1791*, produced for the Society's jubilee in 1951. An appendix to the present volume contains a brief history of the Society, lists its officers and members over the last hundred years and last, but not least, records the invaluable 85 volumes of Sussex documents that have been published during that time.

As well as providing many of the captions in the main text the editor, John Farrant has in the introductory chapters meticulously recorded the cumulative contribution made by the early antiquaries to our present understanding of Sussex history and antiquities. In addition he also discusses and analyses the work of the artists, cartographers and engravers who variously depicted Sussex between 1585-1835 as well as publishing for the first time the Sussex extracts from two 18th-century diaries.

For those of us with a particular interest in place-names, there are some unexpected treasures to be discovered in these introductory chapters. Firstly the realisation that as early as 1595 John Norden had made a systematic record of Sussex place-names, many of which were recorded with alternative forms, and delightful too are his frequently fanciful views on their derivation. As a result of Norden's assumption that translating the name into Latin would illuminate the elements some of his more whimsical creations demand a new parlour game. Which places in Sussex did Norden identify as 'forte a bibendo', 'villa alta' and 'Anglorum villa'? Answers on a postcard, please (or alternatively on page 6 of the book.)

However, it was not until the 18th century that the floodgates of local antiquarian study were opened. The discovery and excavation of a Roman villa at Eastbourne was a key element in the awakening of interest in Sussex antiquities, and this in turn recreated an interest in identifying places recorded in Latin texts. The discovery of the Eastbourne villa led the antiquarian Dr John Tabor of Lewes to suggest that Eastbourne and not Pevensey was the Roman *Anderida*. But, rather more constructively, he also undertook fieldwork on the downs identifying 13 further "camps", or Iron-Age enclosures, to add to the five already identified by Camden and John Aubrey.

Jeremiah Milles, a later diarist, also addressed the *Anderida* problem. Travelling through Newenden in Kent, which had been identified as *Anderida* by Camden, Milles dismissed that idea, favouring Pevensey; "the only ground for Mr Camden's supposition seems to be the tradition that Newenden was once a great town: and so it might have been, and not have been *Anderida*."

His journey continued through Hastings, which he considered was named from a Danish pirate, and then on to Battle where he viewed Standard Hill, where William was thought to have set up his standard before the battle. The *Anderida* debate revived when he made his way to Pevensey, where he correctly identified the outer castle walls as Roman. However, after viewing the villa remains at Seahouses in Southbourne (South of (East)Bourne) he felt, like Tabor, that there was a "strong objection" to identifying Pevensey as *Anderida*. Those massive surviving Roman walls could not represent the place totally destroyed by the invading Saxons - Eastbourne with its destroyed villa was a more likely candidate.

The main section of text, compiled by the editor and several other contributors, describes brief histories of places and properties depicted in over 200 illustrations, some of which are reproduced in colour. The work of 41 artists is represented, but that of S.H. Grimm predominates. During the 1780s Grimm travelled extensively in the county producing pictures of houses, churches, medieval castles and abbeys for his patron the antiquary Sir William Burrell, and of the 204 pictures reproduced in the book no fewer than 116 are his work.

The visual delights are many and varied - from the modest Seahouses at Eastbourne to the substantial splendour of Ashburnham Place and Park; from the vista of a militia camp at Waterdown Forest to the rural idyll of Southerham Chapel; from the grandeur of the pollarded oak dwarfing the many-gabled Westhampnett House and the half-timbered mill alongside it to the miniature delights of the houses depicted on the 1617 map of Preston Episcopi.

In the contents pages the views are listed in alphabetical order of parish followed by the house name while the index usually, but not unfailingly, allows a house-name to be found and located in a parish. The texts accompanying the views are succinct and informative providing details of the ownership and architecture of the houses and churches depicted, as well as analysis of the landscapes. Each entry is accompanied by a list of

documentary and published sources while the sources for the pictures are listed in the picture database (PDB) on CD-ROM, details of which are noted below.

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, the naming of the properties described in the book is remarkably bland. Most belonged to the gentry and yeomen and are predominantly associated with local place-names both village and minor names, although a few are named from the property owners. Indeed the few that created a frisson of interest to this place-name addict for example *Dipperay's* (213) or *Herrings* (201) either proved to be, or were likely to be, in this latter category. Another, *Hollest*, proved to be an exception to that rule (*PN Sx* 19) - and the caption the "*Noah's Ark on the America Ground*" contains two that fall into my personal category of "fun names". Name-changes and -variations are noted in the text - it is useful to know that the artists often identified properties by the owners and not the house name, while it is a salutary warning that *The Old Place* at Pulborough (219) does not in fact represent the earliest site of the manor.

This is truly a "book for all". The specialist will particularly enjoy the masterly introduction to the development of antiquarian interest in Sussex and the comprehensive bibliography. In addition, to further complement this and the earlier volume, the CD-ROM reference list (Picture Database) to over 7,700 pictures, compiled by John Farrant, is available at East and West Sussex Record Offices as well as the Sussex Archaeological Society Library. But everyone with an interest in the county will enjoy the coffee-table aspect of the book, the delightful illustrations evoking a Sussex past and the knowledge of it encapsulated both by past antiquaries and diarists and by modern caption-writers and gathered here for our information and pleasure.

• NOTICE

A new edition of W.D. Parish's *Dictionary of the Sussex dialect* (Farncombe, 1875) has been prepared by Dick Richardson; it was published in 2001 by Country Books and costs £7.50. It includes dialect notes excerpted from E.V. Lucas's *Highways and byways in Sussex* (Macmillan, 1904; chapter 41) and a Sussex mummers' play.

From the newspapers

Geoffrey Mead and Michael Leppard noticed in the *Argus* of 31/01/2002 the report on the problems of Ms Gladys Garland, living at the Tudor Rose mobile home park whose entrance is on the A259 between the two signs welcoming road-users to Peacehaven and Newhaven. Fed up with being in this apparent limbo, and using the principle of meiosis (though the *Argus* didn't say so), she has had the name *Gladshaven* enshrined in bas-relief in the concrete of her patio. The mayor of Peacehaven was anxious to claim the terrain for Peacehaven; East Sussex County Council denied that its signs indicated boundaries.

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