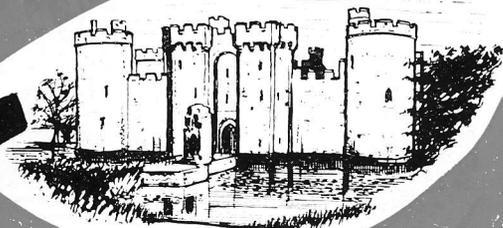


Salehurst, Bodiam & Robertsbridge News



SEPTEMBER 1965

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THE BUCOLIC HISTORY OF ROBERTSBRIDGE

by C. W. FIELD

(continued from last issue)

The Ancient Inns

Among the inns which have either disappeared or have been put to other uses, pride of place must go to **The Angel**, the house nestling below the George Hotel. In the eighteenth century, when Horace Walpole and the fastidious Chaloner Chute (of "The Vyne", Basingstoke) visited the village, it was the Stag's Head, but as has often been pointed out, the change of name is not difficult to understand. A local artist could quite easily change an angel into a stag's head, when the representation of things ecclesiastical on inn signs went out of fashion in the sixteenth century. The Angel was almost certainly the abbey guesthouse, being on the site of the original abbey and cheek-by-jowl with St. Catherine's spring.

The Star Inn can be almost certainly pinpointed as the cottages on Silver Hill, a few yards north of Bantony gate. As such, it gave its name to the lower part of Silver Hill and the cottages were, until recently, known as Star Hill Cottages. When did it cease to be an inn? It is mentioned in an advertisement in the Sussex Weekly Advertiser on 15th February, 1805 and again on 1st April, 1811. Other evidence seems to indicate that it ceased to be an inn between 1860 and 1870. I have been told that the inn's stables stood on the site of the present garage; perhaps an old resident could confirm this.

The Fox Chace. This has defeated my attempts at discovery, but the two cottages adjacent to the New Eight Bells were known as The Foxes. A deed in the possession of the brewers proves this to be so, and may be a clue as to this inn.

Hodson mentions **The Red Lion** and **The Compasses**. I have failed to trace these hostelries.

The Old George. Prior to 1660 this was known as "The George", which is the reason why it is possible to state with some certainty that the present George Hotel dates from about this time. The site of the Old George is also known with certainty—it was the corner tenement on the north side of East Street (Fair Lane). The question is, then, whether it stood on the site of Tudor House, or whether (as, on the face of it, seems more probable) the houses next to Tudor House at the foot of Fair Lane were the inn.

The Pig and Whistle. This inn, the bearer of an unbelievable but time honoured name, was what we know as Langham House, on the corner of the High Street and Station Road. I know nothing about it, apart from its brief mention by Hodson.

The Checker. This lay on the east side of the High Street, south of Fair Lane. Old residents will not find an identification too difficult. Nos. 44 and 46 High Street (Mr. Scotcher's shop forming the major part) have always been known as The Chequers. The building is of sufficient age to warrant the reasonable deduction that this was the old inn.

MR. BT. HODSON. HODSON

begin...

The Hart. This, too, lay in the High Street, on the east side, south of Fair Lane. It is here that one must draw the longbow—was this the old name for the Seven Stars Inn? The Seven Stars is not mentioned in the Survey of Robertsbridge Manor 1567–1570 (published by the Sussex Record Society in 1944), but the Hart was, and mentioned moreover in the approximate position of the Seven Stars Inn. Unless other evidence is forthcoming, it can be accepted as a possibility that the Hart stood on the southern corner of Fair Lane.

The Tun. This stood on the western side of the High Street “under the sign of the George” (that is, the Old George). If we are to accept the description strictly, this inn would have to stand on the site of Messrs. Croucher and Fuller’s shop. These buildings are not old enough to have been the inn, and possibly an older building stood on the site. If, however, we interpret the description in a looser fashion, it is possible to suggest that “The Green Woodpecker” might possibly have been The Tun. It is certainly old enough to have been so, and architecturally it fits the bill admirably. This leaves . . .

The Bull. Hodson stated that the house in Fair Lane opposite the field where the annual fair used to be held, was the Bull. This now seems to be impossible. The Bull, it is certain, lay in the High Street, north of Fair Lane. This raises an interesting speculation. Certain houses—numbers 28, 26 and 24—are not old enough to have been the inn. The Post Office is quite old but if we reject this, there is only one possible candidate to put forward. “Rose Bank” at the bottom of the High Street, fits the bill from both the points of view of antiquity and architecture. The central hall arrangement (which the Seven Stars originally had) is typical of inns of the period.

The identification of The Bull is of some importance in the history of the parish. It was occupied by William Blackenhall (the clerk of the abbey iron works. Buried at Salehurst, 10th February, 1585) and stood against the Fair Field proper. Since the Bull is stated to be in the High Street north of Fair Lane, it follows that there were two separate Fair Fields, one to the north and one to the south of Fair Lane. This is borne out by the reference in the rental of 1580 to “two severall ffeldes”. It is likely, therefore, that the Fair Field proper covered the area between Fair Lane and the Glottenham Stream and abutted on the High Street. If, as has been suggested, Blackenhall was also bedell, his occupancy of The Bull would have put him in a good position to collect the dues of the annual three day Holy Cross fair. If, moreover, the entrance to the Fair Field proper was by the side of the Bull, by the lane which even now exists, Blackenhall’s position at the entrance is at once logical and makes even more certain the identification of “Rose Bank” as The Bull. So much for the northern field. The southern field, the one known as “le Bulloks fayerfeld” (or Bull Field as it is known) is unquestionably that used until recent years as the site of the annual fair.

It will be noted, also, that almost all the **old** inns are to be found clustered along the fair fields—with the exception of The Angel, which doubtless existed where it did because of its monastic connection. The George (or New George) came later and is not counted.

QUEENS CLUB, BODIAM

The Annual Outing took place on 4th August. A party of forty-one visited Duncan Foster's Bakery at Hampden Park, Eastbourne and later went to tea at Wannock Gardens. A fine day was enjoyed by all.

BODIAM CRICKET CLUB

To date the Club have won five and lost eleven of their games, but recent results suggest improvement to come. The batting has improved with J. Hook still leading the averages from B. Hall. The latter is to be congratulated on the feat of scoring two successive half-centuries. The younger members of the Club have been improving too—to mention only two, Rodney Watson scored 21 against Chiddingly, no mean feat when the scoreboard read 24 for 7 when he went in and Stewart Foster who scored 31 not out against Clive Vale and by so doing brought victory to the Club.

On the whole, with youngsters being given a chance, there must be a ray of hope that our spectators may again watch a repeat of the summers of the past.

1st ROBERTSBRIDGE BOYS SCOUTS & CUBS

On Sunday, 4th July, the Cubs played and beat a team of the combined Etchingham and Hurst Green Cubs at cricket on the local playing fields; in spite of cool weather many Mums and Dads turned up to support the local talent. Tea and refreshments were served by Akela and some of the parents and a good afternoon was had by all.

Cub Day was held on 11th July at Forge Farm, Burwash, again this year, and once more the Pack acquitted themselves well in the Shield Competition, the three Sixes scoring 78, 75 and 72 out of a possible of 90.

The Scout Troop spent that same weekend under canvas at Forge Farm, and when I say "under canvas" I am not kidding, for that was the Sunday when it rained, and it rained, and it rained. However, the lads must like it as at the time of going to press the Troop is on a week's summer camp at Ashburnham, near Battle, but the weather is being much kinder to them.

The Cub Pack with a few parents will have been to London Zoo by the time you read this. This trip has been organized by Mrs. Rogers, the Cub Mistress.

Cub William Hoad has been awarded his Leaping Wolf and Guide Badges, and both he and Trevor Caine have moved up to the Scout Troop.

And, talking of Scouts, we have a very keen Scoutmaster in Mr. Circett of "Sandy Mount", Langham Road. We have room for many more budding scouts in the troop—any lads who are interested can come along to the Scout Hut at 7.30 p.m. on Thursdays. I am sure they will find it worthwhile and a very good change from watching the "telly".

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SALEHURST AND THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES, BODIAM

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

First I wish to welcome the Reverend and Mrs. R. W. Swingler to Bodiam. Mr. Swingler has been Rector of Thurlaston in Leicester and has come to assist me as resident priest at Bodiam. We hope that Mr. and Mrs. Swingler will be very happy to work among us, and I know that you will make them feel at home and show them how pleased you are to have a pastor living in Bodiam again. Mr. Swingler and I will be swapping pulpits quite often and I hope that we shall bring both parishes more closely together.

My gratitude and thanks to all of you who year by year help to make Bodiam Church Fete such a great success. It would be extremely difficult to meet the running costs of the Church without it. Lady Joan Gore-Langton opened the proceedings with a charming and zestful speech reminding us of the continued life of the Church, ever ready to be of help and comfort in times of stress, yet often forgotten by those who live nearby their place of worship. At Salehurst we have received the Quinquennial report by the official architect appointed to inspect the fabric. There are several urgent repairs needed costing something around £2,000—the complete report adds up to some £8,000 plus. In October, the new supply of weekly envelopes arrive and I hope that more people will give by this means, making a weekly offering that makes sense in an age of affluence. Would you ask yourself whether your weekly offering multiplied by fifty-two is really enough to maintain and restore the fabric, and to pay the running costs that help to make our worship inspiring and meaningful.

Harvest-time is almost here and I have no hesitation in asking that you might bear this in mind as you place your offering in your envelope. The Restoration of the Church itself is a perpetual headache—a legacy of past neglect and lack of foresight. We have been slowly making up for this over the past ten years and need one more great effort over the next ten to assure the next generations of a place of quiet and spiritual renewal, whatever the outcome of the present chaotic and confusing age. If we truly believe in the revelation of God in the Bible as revealed to us by Christ Jesus, no House of Prayer can be too beautiful, too dignified and revered, so long as it is used and open to all who live near, as an invitation to find rest and peace and new life and promise.

Your Minister and Friend,

ROBERT A. STEDMAN.

Confirmation Classes

The Confirmation Classes will begin with an informal meeting on 21st September in the Vicarage at 7 p.m. The Confirmation itself will take place on Sunday, 28th November in place of Evensong. The Bishop of Lewes will administer the Sacrament and I am hoping that many will take this opportunity of becoming full members of the Church.

Holy Baptism

Aug. 14 Andrew James William McKenzie.

In Memoriam

Percy Alfred Nicolls, aged 73.

Eliza Jane Piper, aged 93.

Frances Jane Croft, aged 80.

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

St. Mary the Virgin, Salehurst

- Sep. 5 Trinity XII.
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (in Church Room).
11.00 a.m. Sung Communion and Address.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer and Address.
- 12 Trinity XIII.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (in Church Room).
11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evensong.
- 19 Trinity XIV.
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (in Church Room).
11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.
3.00 p.m. Evensong at Bourne Farm.
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Communion.
- 26 Trinity XV.
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (in Church Room).
11.00 a.m. Sung Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evensong and Hymn Singing.
- Oct. 3 Trinity XVI. HARVEST THANKSGIVING.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (in Church Room).
11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

N.B.—Since the Harvest Thanksgiving is being held on the first Sunday in October the Sung Communion which would normally have been on that day is transferred to the last Sunday in September, 26th September.

St. Giles, Bodiam

- Sep. 5 Trinity XII.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer (Dr. Dence, Lay Reader, Tunbridge Wells).

- 12 Trinity XIII.
11.00 a.m. Holy Communion (The Rector).
19 Trinity XIV.
11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer (Mr. Wawne).
26 Trinity XV.
11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer.
Oct. 3 Trinity XVI.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer (The Rev. R. W. Swingler).

The Reverend R. W. Swingler will be licensed as Assistant Priest resident at Bodiam from 1st October. Mr. and Mrs. Swingler will reside at the School House until such time as a new Parsonage house is built. Mr. Swingler has been a chaplain in H.M. Forces and for the past ten years has been Rector of Thurlaston in Leicester.

St. Giles Church Fete

The Church Fete mentioned elsewhere in this issue is likely to realise a sum exceeding £160 after all expenses have been met. We were blessed with a lovely day and many willing helpers.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our members who attended the July meeting were fortunate to hear Mr. Robin Mander (of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis) who sketched briefly the history of religious communities in the Anglican Church since the Reformation, such as Little Gidding and William Law's Group, and then the revival under the influence of the Tractarian Movement and their recognition which was due largely to Florence Nightingale. As usual the women led the men, and it was almost twenty years later that Fr. Benson founded the S.S.J.E.—the "Cowley Dads".

He then turned in more detail to the Franciscan Order—the Society of St. Francis—giving a quick look at the activities of the First Order, including the Friary and Home at Cerne Abbas, the school at Hooke, the Friaries at Alnmouth and in New Guinea; then the Second Order, the Poor Clares, near Oxford, and finally the Third Order of laymen and women and some clergy scattered throughout the world.

Church Colleges of Education

In consequence of the Education Minister's agreement to a proposal in the Robbins Report on higher education, the former teacher training colleges are now officially known as Colleges of Education, and the Council of the Church Training Colleges has also changed its name to the Council of the Church Colleges of Education. A new brochure, issued by the Council in July and widely distributed to schools and libraries, gives details and illustrations of the 27 colleges of the Church of England and the Church in Wales, which now have some 12,000 students and are still expanding.

Since the war the Church in England and Wales has provided something like £4,000,000 for these colleges, which train teachers not only for Church schools but also for those owned by local

authorities. Their courses are designed to provide for the personal education of students combined with sound professional teaching. All the colleges are now preparing for the introduction of four-year degree courses under the aegis of the universities, so that students of academic ability will be able to read for a degree, while others continue to take the three-year course leading to a certificate.

Candidates for the colleges must have reached the age of eighteen on October 1st of the year they enter. The minimum qualification is five passes at G.C.E. Ordinary level, but an increasing number of students have one or more passes at Advanced level.

A list of the colleges is available from the Council of the Church Colleges of Education, 69, Great Peter Street, London, S.W.1; prospective candidates should then apply to the college of their choice, from which they will be sent a prospectus and the necessary entry forms. Each year the number of applicants exceeds the number of places, but the colleges would like to ensure that candidates with a Christian background and the necessary academic qualifications have every chance of being accepted.

“THE PASSENGER”

by R. J. Betts (Sales Representative)

The snow began to fall again as the young man eased the car on to the Lewes road. Normally he would have been home by this time but the icy roads had delayed his journey throughout the day; now came the drive home across twenty-five miles of winding country roads caught fast in the iron grip of a January night.

It was part of his job to drive in all weathers and, whilst he got very little pleasure from motoring, he didn't actively dislike driving; but black ice was a very different matter. All the ridge roads exposed to the swirling blizzard would be covered with the glinting malicious blackness. Although the young man would not have admitted it, he was afraid of the ice and the measure of his fear shone white in the knuckles of his hands as he gripped the steering wheel.

He swore to himself as the rear wheels veered sharply, swinging the headlamp beams for a moment on to the deceptive softness of the snow-filled ditch on his right. “Leave the brake alone,” commanded the young man, as his right foot sought to correct the slide. “Turn the wheel into the skid,” he continued to himself, “don't touch the clutch . . . that's it . . . gently.”

For five tortuous miles the young man coaxed the car along on a slithering and often crab-like track. The instructions he gave himself, intermingled with the luxury of abusive language eased the tension, but the effort of staring into the blinding fragments of the blizzard made a nerve under his right eye throb uncomfortably.

Quite suddenly it stopped snowing. The young man gave an appreciative grunt and to accustom his tired and smarting eyes

to the unbroken light he averted his gaze for a moment to the soothing green glow of the dashboard.

Had his reactions been a split second slower he would have certainly smashed into the duffle-coated figure that suddenly appeared in the headlamps.

"What do you mean by stepping out on me like that," demanded the young man, furious with himself for being so careless. "Don't you realise this road's like glass? I could have killed you . . . and myself come to that." He had brought the car to a standstill without too much trouble, but the shock of the near accident provoked his temper and he glared angrily at the hooded figure before him.

"I'm terribly sorry," muttered the figure, "I've been waiting here so long and the last one wouldn't stop."

"I should jolly well think you are sorry," began the young man, but feeling rather shame-faced at his outburst of temper he added, "Anyway forget it . . . where do you want to go?"

"Halland—the cross roads would suit me fine, I'm going up North." "I know where you mean," replied the young man, "Jump in. Oh, hang on a moment and I'll clear the front seat."

"No . . . no please don't trouble yourself," said the figure, his hand already on the rear door handle, "I much prefer the back if that's O.K. with you?"

The young man nodded his head and started the car. As he did so the snow began to fall again and the wheels searched for a grip on the rutted ice.

"A man could die out there." The passenger had not spoken since entering the car and the starkness of the sudden statement startled the young man lost in concentration.

"Pardon? Oh, yes—yes you're quite right," he began. "It always amuses me you know, people regard Sussex as being pretty tame, as being . . ."

"The soft under-belly of England?" suggested the passenger.

"Yes, yes that's exactly it. The soft under-belly of England—my God that's a laugh. Last year three people froze to death on this road when their car ran out of petrol."

"I know," replied the passenger with a tone of almost grim finality in his voice, "but I suppose you must be used to all sorts of road conditions?"

For some strange and quite inexplicable reason the young man began to feel vaguely uneasy. He glanced up to the mirror for a moment, but could only barely see the soft outline of his passenger's head and shoulders. Everything appeared to be quite normal, but the young man dare not turn his head to be absolutely certain, for to have done so would have courted disaster on a road such as this.

"Er, yes," the young man cleared his throat, "I'm a salesman you see. I sell fashions—you know the rag trade—and I'm through this way every month or so. Can't say I like this weather though, I should think the Eskimos must have a very good time. What's

your line?"

"I suppose you might call me a traveller too," replied the passenger, "I'm a bit different to you though. You sell—I collect. Still I suppose you could say that Bank Holidays are my busiest periods, although," he added with a hollow chuckle, "I've as much work as I want all year through."

The nerve under the young man's eye began to throb again and for the first time he noticed how cold the car had become.

"I think the wretched heater's packed up," he announced with a forced cheerfulness, "trust our luck on a night like this." He was worried, there was something very odd indeed about his passenger and the fact that the young man couldn't see him didn't lighten his fears.

"Don't worry about me," replied the passenger, "anyway, we've not far to go now."

"You speak for yourself chum, I've another fifteen miles of this little lot before I get home." The young man's voice was a shade higher than he would have liked and the quavering heartiness betrayed his disturbed feelings.

"Anyway," he added, "I thought you said you were going North?"

The passenger shifted in his seat slightly. "North? Oh, maybe I will later but the crossroads will suit us very well."

"Us?" cried the young man thoroughly alarmed, "what do you . . ."

The young man was cut short by the pain of the bony claw that grasped his shoulder. "We're here," whispered the passenger tightening his grip.

The young man slammed his feet on brake and clutch and, in an effort to free himself, twisted round to face his passenger.

"Do you feel up to telling us what happened now?" asked one of the two policemen, "take your time, these things shake you up."

"Gawd it were awful," began the white-faced man, "I could see 'im coming but there weren't nothing I could do see? Come straight out at me 'e did—skidding all over the shop. I didn't stand a chance," pleaded the lorry driver, "'e were dead when I got to 'im; young bloke too, married I shouldn't wonder. Couldn't 'ave known the cross-roads drivin' like that. Twisted all round 'e were, smashed up 'orrible." He buried his face in his hands and tears began to well up between his fingers.

"You sit quiet 'til the ambulance comes along," said the policeman nodding sympathetically, "might have been worse you know, at least there were no passengers with him."

SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

Routine jobs provide plenty of work just now and in preparation for later on planting out recently sown spring cabbages and sowing winter lettuce outside, if not already done.

September is also a good month for sowing lawns. The ground

should be well cultivated, levelled and made firm, and general fertilizer given at 2ozs. per square yard a week or so before sowing.

Sow the seed at 1 to 2ozs. per square yard, rake just into the soil surface and firm with a very light roller if the ground is dry enough. Small areas can be firmed with the back of a spade. Pegs and black thread to discourage birds complete the job although with treated seed these defences are less necessary.

Lilium candidum—the Madonna lily—can be planted outside during this month to flower next July. Bulbs should be only just covered. Indoor chrysanthemums which have been standing outside should now be brought into the greenhouse for protection. Do not allow them much more warmth than mere frost protection.

Schizanthus or butterfly flower (also known as Poor Man's Orchid) can be sown now in cool greenhouses. This plant makes a magnificent show in pots. They need cool treatment and plenty of air: John Innes compost is suitable. Sown in September they will bloom in April or May.

Geranium cuttings are best taken now and strike quite easily in pots. They should be fairly short jointed—3 or 4ins. long and inserted in John Innes compost. The most important point is not to over water.

If planning to have paeonies, they should be planted soon in deeply dug soil with plenty of manure and some lime, which however should not be allowed to come in contact with the roots. The necessity for preparing the ground well is the fact that paeonies should be left in position for a long time: they do not like being disturbed, and in any case one has to be patient as it may be two or three years before they bloom really well. Two of the finest are the scented *Festiva Maxima*, white with a fine crimson line, and *Sarah Bernhardt*, a delicate pink.

Lift *Gladioli* that have done flowering, tie in bunches and hang up in a shed to dry. Plant out wallflowers, primroses, polyanthus, auriculas and anemones—in fact, the end of the month is the time when most of the planting for next season is carried out. Herbaceous borders are ready for the start of clearing but should be showing colour well into October. A good idea is to move some early flowering or Korean chrysanthemums into the gaps as they do not mind a move even just before flowering if well watered and then the borders will still have interest until late into the winter.

ROBERTSBRIDGE MUSICAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Society hope to produce the Pantomime "Beauty and The Beast" by Trudy West, next January and are holding an audition at the Institute Hall on Tuesday, September 7th at 8 p.m. and will welcome anyone interested who would like to take part or help in any way. A Harvest Sale is being arranged to take place on Saturday, September 18th at 3 p.m. at the Institute Hall.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ROBERTSBRIDGE

- Sep. 4 Cricket v. Peasmarsh (away) 2.30 p.m.
8 W.I. Meeting, 2.30 p.m.—Mrs. Joanna James, “The London I Love”.
11 Cricket v. Rye (away) 2.30 p.m.
18 Cricket v. Battle (home) 2.30 p.m.
22 Mothers’ Union — Intercessions 2.30 p.m.; Meeting 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. Holmes. (Members are reminded that this is an open meeting and all friends will be welcome.)

BODIAM

There are no dates to record for September. Everything hinges on hop-picking, which looks like starting late, with the prospect of a good crop. Cricket ends on 29th August and football will not start until October. Neither the Women’s Institute nor the British Legion meet in September, and the next meeting of the Queens Club for the over 60s will be on Wednesday, 6th October.

7th August, 1965.

Dear Sir,

Parish Magazine, August 1965

It has been fairly obvious since Bodiam was taken over by Robertsbridge and Salehurst that this village has more or less ceased to exist as far as the “Parent Companies” are concerned, and this situation is underlined by your correspondent in her “cri de coeur” for someone to supply morning coffee.

The slightest local knowledge would have produced the suggestion that the tourist might like to take the Salehurst road to Bodiam (a very pretty country run) where they could obtain a really good cup of coffee and at the same time see our famous Castle.

Now, do you not think this is a good idea? We **are** here to earn a living you know, and my husband does support your Church—although I cannot subscribe to his views!

Yours faithfully,

Lillian Wood.

The correspondent can rest assured that no discrimination is made in publishing the views of non-members of the Church. It might be added that Bodiam was not “taken-over” by Salehurst, the Council and School are quite distinct.—Ed.

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