

# BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*From a map of Sussex by John Nordon, augmented by John Speede.  
a.1616 d.*

## Newsletter

### FOREWORD

Following the success of the first publication of a Newsletter we are proceeding more or less on the same lines.

Most of the lectures have been covered and I hope will remind you of some interesting evenings we have had.

The Summer Outings are always popular and have been reported fully, we are very grateful to the reporters.

The parties as usual have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

In future Keith Reader will be compiling the Newsletter and I hope he finds as much pleasure in doing so as I have.

Lorna Sanders,  
Chairman.



BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society,  
the Sussex Archaeological Trust, and the  
South-Eastern Federation of Museums and Art Galleries.

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## WINTER PROGRAMME 1982-83

September 24th

Ma Normandie

Mr. Roger Porter

A travel talk with a difference is the description applied to the presentation of this talk given by Mr. Porter. We were introduced to the many facets of Normandy including its coast line, Harbours, Cathedrals, Folklore, Bayeux Tapestry, Falaise Castle, a Horse Fair and Bastille Day accompanied by colourful sites and typical sounds and music.

Roger Porter has worked in Anglo French circles for many years and initiated the Hastings twinning with Bethune. He serves on the committee of Souvenir Normand and the Battle Abbey Advisory Committee. In 1976 he was decorated by the French Government for services to the French culture.

Lorna Sanders

October 15th

The National Maritime Museum

Mrs. Jean Mackay

A full account of our visit to Greenwich is recorded in the first edition of Newsletter. This talk gave us further details of the Naval College, Maritime Museum and the Queen's House which we were unable to see on the day of our visit.

Lorna Sanders

No notes available on the Lectures below

October 29th

A Maritime Museum for East Sussex

Mr. Peter Marsden

November 5th

Battle Workhouse & the Poor Law

Miss Monica Hodgson

December 10th

BODIAM

Mr. James Woodhams

1983

January 7th

Recent Developments in East Sussex Archaeology

Dr. Andrew Woodcock

Dr. Woodcock is the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Advisor and his talk, which was well illustrated by some excellent slides, was designed to show the ramifications of such an appointment and also to give a review of the archaeological work recently carried out in the County and planned for the future. Work carried out by various amateur and professional bodies can be broadly grouped under the headings of fieldwork and discovery, excavations, air photography and conservation and in a County such as East Sussex there is endless scope for all these activities. The Task of the County Archaeologist is to advise, guide and record.

The values of air photography in the field of discovery of possible sites for excavation was clearly demonstrated by slides. The location of ancient sites can often be clearly outlined in aerial photographs even when there

is little or nothing to be seen on the ground. This same technique was used of course extensively during the last war to locate mine fields.

Jack Sanders

Battle - One of the Oldest New Towns

Mrs. Ann Moore 21st January, 1983

Battle was created to serve the Abbey. The linear layout which persists to this day shows that defence was not a prime consideration which, in turn, indicates that Saxons and Normans intermingled easily in this area, a fact which is confirmed by the mixture of names in the Rental records.

Views expressed are based on studies of the Rentals and particularly the Battle Abbey Chronicle of about 1107 and those held in the East Sussex Record Office covering 1367 to 1652.

Mrs. Moore believes that the translation of the Chronicle from the Latin indicates that the Rental started from the top of Battle Hill and that the Hospital was there - a point confirmed in later Rentals. This means that the present 'Pilgrims Rest' was the Almonry. Holdings listed in the Rental correspond very closely to present day plots especially in the High Street, and were probably large enough to support the household. Holders had to make cash payments and provide specified days of labour to the Abbey. There were quarries on the South side of Upper Lake and near the Hospital at Glengorse. A 'curia' referred to near the Hospital was probably the 'Gildhall for the Country Workers' which later became the Hallmoot Court. Two other Gildhalls were probably situated near the Church and near Mount Street which was then the end of the town.

In 1367, despite the Black Death the population of Battle was larger than in 1107. The extent of the 1367 Rental was much wider and defined a 'liberty' area which extended to the Hospital, the top of Marley Lane, Watch Oak and Uckham/Virgins Lane where citizens enjoyed certain tax exemptions. There was a Court House in Mount Street and a 'bar' near where the Chapel is now. There was also a 'bar' near Powdermill Lane.

The 1433 Rental defines the limits of the Town more clearly. Although there seem to be fewer houses and bigger gardens other things seem much the same. There is a reference to 'Wymmelhill' (Windmill Hill) on Caldbec and also to shops and a smithy near the Abbey Gate.

In spite of the Reformation few social changes show through in the 1564-69 Rentals though almost all tenants' names have changed which seems to indicate greater mobility of rural population than is generally supposed. Nine identical houses appear as new rents in Upper Lake and there is reference to a school by the church. The Court House is still in Mount Street and there is reference to 'a new house covered with tiles' in the 'old market' opposite the Court House. 'The Bull' and 'The Chequers'

public houses are recorded and there are many more gardens and kitchens. Under the influence of the Catholic Montague family Battle had been described in the 1590's as a 'hotbed of Popery'. The Civil Wars brought changes and in 1644 the old Commission of Peace (the J.P.'s) was re-organised and the local gentry, including Sir Robert Foster who had a house in Sandlake just south of Powdermill Lane, a Sackville of Sedlescombe and the Ashburnhams of Guestling and Ashburnham were replaced by yeoman and ironmasters.

In 1652 the topography is very similar to 1569. Family names are almost entirely different and there are more 'Battle' names as we now know them.

Apart from the railway line and the new part of North Trade Road south of Wellington Gardens (the old road went via Watch Oak and Chain Lane) the basic layout of Battle has remained the same with continuity of place if not of family names. The layout of fields and hedges is almost certainly pre-Conquest.

Keith Reader

#### Tudor Sussex

Dr. Jeremy Goring 4th February

The speaker began by stressing that he would be looking at Tudor Sussex as a whole, at both continuity and change.

An observer from the air would have found the Sussex coastline different. He would have seen more woodland, wasteland and marsh, and smaller towns. Thus there were only 130 houses in Battle with well under 1,000 inhabitants in 1569, and the total population of the whole of Sussex was only around 60,000. Although by 1600 the county was still densely wooded there was less woodland than previously. In fact there was a timber crisis in the mid 16th century which led to a survey of Sussex woods. Timber was all important for ship building, and the expanding iron industry was making inroads. By the end of the century there were over 100 water-powered iron working sites in Sussex. The enclosure of common land resulted in less waste land and there was now less marsh. West Sussex became more arable and Sussex grain found its way to London and as far away as Ireland, and the county became the most important supplier of victuals to the Navy. By the end of the era Sussex was more built over, especially in the Weald and the population had risen to around 100,000. A rising birthrate was accompanied by a falling mortality despite the plague of 1563, but there was also immigration into Sussex from other parts of the country. In Lewes there were newcomers from London, Kent and Lancashire. Skilled workers came from France; since the iron industry they were technologically more advanced and there were French pottery workers in Hartfield.

North of the Downs saw the building of a number of large houses (e.g. Parham, Chiddingly, Street Place, Ivy Place, Cuckfield) all built by Sussex men. The owner of Parham had made his fortune in London as a mercer



before returning to the county, Chiddingly was built by a judge who was the son of a local farmer. What these men, and others like them, illustrate is an expansion of gentry. By the end of the period 74 yeomen families had become gentry, half of them in the Weald, and most had some connection with the iron industry. The great ecclesiastical buildings, the great abbeys had gone but apart from a sit-in at Pelham Abbey there was little reaction.

Economic effects there were, but Battle was fortunate in that the Abbey became the residence of Sir Anthony Browne and so continued to provide employment and the consequences of the dissolution were felt less here than elsewhere. Roodlofts had disappeared from the churches, wall paintings had been whitewashed over. Church services were now in English and the laity received the Cup at Communion. Not all was destruction in the churches; pews were rare in 1500, common in 1600 where each sat in his proper place: an arrangement seemingly giving a divine sanction to social order! Puritanism was reflected in some Christian names (e.g. "Die Thankful" and "Fight the Good Fight White") and was responsible for the disappearance of Maypoles and Church Ales. But Battle in the last decade of the 16th century was said to be still 'papist' in sentiment due no doubt to the influence of the Montague family who remained attached to the old faith. Sussex in the Tudor period was very much in the front line, with blockhouses erected on the coast from Brighton to Eastbourne. In 1514 the French had landed at Brighton and burnt the town, and the fears of invasion increased in Elizabeth's reign with the hostility of Spain. The defeat of the Armada did not end the apprehensions. In 1596 there was a rumour that the Spaniards had landed and burnt Eastbourne and Pevensey. The militia was ill prepared and three years later the panic seems to have been even worse than in 1588. Communications in the county were of course very poor, and hence when a French embassy landed in Newhaven in 1600 its members complained that from that place it was impossible to get anywhere. The abbeys and the monks had gone, there were new buildings with Tudor chimneys. There was a brewery in Battle (beer not ale). One wonders what people thought of the changes, but no doubt there was more continuity here in Battle because of the Montague family in residence at the old Abbey, and it is fairly safe to assume that many old customs lingered on.

Keith Reader

## Two Old English Noblemen - Aethelnoth of Canterbury & Ansgar the Staller

Dr. Ann Williams 18th February

Family structures and surnames in the modern sense of heritable family names were a Norman innovation, with the emphasis on descent from father to son. This was not the case with the Anglo Saxons who used many names so that one man can appear in Domesday in different places under

different names. This obviously makes research difficult. Aethelnoth was a Kentishman with large estates in Surrey and Sussex. He had some connection with Harold Goodwineson and, as a possible focus for Saxon dissent, he was taken to Normandy by William, as a hostage in 1067.

He appears to have had a privileged position in local affairs and there is some slight evidence that he was a descendant of an erldorman of Kent. Certainly most of his land eventually passed to Bishop Odo of Bayeux who was also Earl of Kent. His manor at Alciston, however, came to Battle Abbey sometime before 1086. Little is known about this man after the Conquest.

Ansgar was a Londoner and was involved in the defence of London when William laid seige to it after Hastings. He was a prominent citizen of London and held 80 hides of land in Middlesex. He was an important official at Court as his title Staller implies.

Ansgar's grandfather Tofig the Proud described as 'first among the English after the King' built a church at Waltham. His son Athelstan - Ansgar's father - fell from grace and forfeited the estates which were granted by Edward the Confessor to Harold Goodwineson, the second founder of Waltham. From this connection there developed a relationship between Harold and Ansgar whose signature appears on Edward's Charters of the 1050's.

As in the case of Aethelnoth it is not known how long Ansgar survived after the Conquest or why he lost his land. An Ely Abbey source suggests he was imprisoned by the Normans and died in captivity.

It is only by researching such men - Aethelnoth with considerable local power and Ansgar a man of national importance - that we can form any idea of how English society functioned in the late old English period. They were men of the highest rank after the Earl and had land holdings comparable with the post Norman barons.

Keith Reader

### The Story of Silverhill

Mrs. Elizabeth Montgomery 4th March 1983

The speaker first paid tribute to the late Mr. John Prothero and Dr. James Murray who had provided her with maps, photographs and slides.

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The origin of the name Silverhill is obscure but in 1783 High Ridge Farm changed its name to Silverhill Farm.

In 1823 James Burton built a new Turnpike Road due north from the site of his new town at St. Leonards. Soon after Hastings Council also built a Turnpike Road along the line of the present Cambridge and Bohemia Roads. At the junction of these two roads the hamlet of Silverhill developed around an existing nucleus of a Mill, a Farm, Potteries, a small row of cottages

(Silverhill Terrace) and the new Tivoli Hotel which drew wealthy visitors to enjoy its many attractions including a Tea Garden in an Orchard where No. 6 Sedlescombe Road - The Orchard - now stands.

The Potteries produced many articles from chimney pots, which can still be seen in Bohemia Road to jugs, pipes and plant pots made to resemble woodbark by a potter names Tree. Cottages for the workers were built in what is now Duke Road although some of the better paid workers lived in Silverhill Terrace built in 1837.

In the mid-19th century Silverhill developed rapidly. Houses suitable for professional people were built and Silverhill Villas built in 1863 provided for an influx of Tradesmen. The Tivoli was pulled down and replaced by Silverlands House which had 10 bedrooms and stabling for 6 horses. It was occupied by Lady Elinor Cavendish. Excavations for the foundations exposed the skeleton of an Iguanodon and its baby. Five public houses also opened in the area.

A wealthy farmer named George Clement contributed directly and indirectly to the development at this time. The theological student Clement engaged as tutor for his son started services at Providence Villa in Silverhill Terrace. These became so popular that first a hired hall was taken and then in 1857 gave land for a chapel to be built at a cost of £370. With a tower added in 1865 this became the Presbyterian Chapel. Later Clements sold more land for a road to be built alongside the Chapel.

By 1880 Silverhill began to decline, low wages and drink resulted in great poverty. The most squalid area was Duke Street, Duke Road and Duke Terrace which in a report in 1880 was referred to as a 'colony of the lowest sort of people'. Older residents today remember being forbidden the area when young.

Much help was given at this time by the Churches and organisations such as the Band of Hope and the Temperance Society and a soup kitchen was provided at the Rainbow Temperance Hotel.

Neglected and unruly children were a great problem and were referred to as 'little savages' by the Hastings Education Board Officer in a report in 1879. A Board School was built in 1879 at the junction of Sedlescombe Road North and Poynton Road. This with the two Church schools already in existence did much to prevent the children running wild.

Women in need of money took in washing and mini-laundries sprang up where girls worked 12 hours a day for 2/6. A public drying area was necessarily provided where Eversley Crescent now is.

Inevitably professional people were leaving the area and in 1893 Silverlands House was pulled down and Silverlands Road built in the grounds. Residential Villas lined this road and it was cut off from Duke Street by an 8' wall, not removed until 1954.

The first public transport appeared in the shape of a Horse Bus in 1880 followed by Motor Buses in 1900, Trams in 1905 and Trolley Buses in 1928.

Bombs on March 11th, 1943 killed 58 people and did much damage including the destruction of the old Strode Road Church School. In 1966 the Mill was demolished and flats now occupy the site of the old Board School. Shops have been built in the front gardens of Silverhill Villas. Sedlescombe Road North has not greatly changed in recent years and, in fact, two rather dilapidated old farm cottages are still there.

The talk was illustrated by an excellent and comprehensive collection of slides.

Keith Reader

### The Museum Trust

In the last year we lost three of our most experienced committee members. Sadly we recall the death of our Vice-Chairman, Mr. K. Crowe, his wise council and photographic skills were much valued.

Mr. R.W. Bishop resigned after no less than 26 years as Treasurer; our thanks are due to him for so ably guiding our finances over all these years.

Mr. E.J. Tyler, our Chairman, also resigned after helping us over some 10 years; his erudition, and enthusiasm for Museum affairs will be greatly missed.

Among projects currently undertaken are the Repair and Maintenance of Maps by Mrs. Cook. Paths, Streams and Woodlands by Mrs. Taylor and Battle Barracks by Mrs. Gore. Anyone who has been watching "Mansfield Park" on B.B.C. T.V. might be interested to know that the play "Lovers Vows" was performed at the Battle Theatre in 1813. We have a play-bill in the Museum. Research into Battle Theatre needs to be done. Anyone who is interested in undertaking this or any other project, please contact the Hon. Sec. Mrs. M.G. Langley.

### S U M M E R O U T I N G S 1 9 8 3

#### Sissinghurst 18th May

The first visit of the Summer season in May was to Sissinghurst Castle and garden. The earliest building here was a moated manor house of 13th century, later pulled down and replaced by a very large Elizabethan mansion which had fallen into ruins, few parts of the original remaining, when in the 1930's Violet Sackville-West and her husband Sir Harold Nicholson were inspired to create the beautiful and interesting gardens that have now matured. They are geometrically designed and one of the ideas on which Violet Sackville-West worked was to have different colours predominating in the sections, for example white by the Priest's House, orange and yellow in the cottage garden and purple along the north side of the front courtyard.

The entrance to Sissinghurst garden is through the central arch in a range of Tudor buildings. The library, which visitors are allowed to see, with its collection of books and fine porcelain is on the left side of the range. The Tower has two octagonal turrets, the left hand one containing three small rooms one above the other. On the way up the winding stair one sees Violet Sackville-West's study, a small museum of the history of the house and an exhibition of the work of the National Trust. From the roof one gets a panoramic view of the beautiful Kent countryside.

Esther Martin

#### Stoneacre 18th May

Stoneacre at Otham near Maidstone is particularly interesting for it is a mediaeval hall house still lived in as a home. Records of the owners go back to the 14th century and the original house is thought to have been built in 13th century. The present one dates from 1480. Like Sissinghurst it was almost derelict when the occupiers rescued it in 1920 and began its restoration, which was done in a most careful and knowledgeable way. A special feature of the Great Hall, in which the tenants of the National Trust live, is a particularly splendid crown post. The fire in the huge fireplace is their main source of heat for the house. Additions of a southeast and northwest wing of the same date as the Hall have been made by carefully removing them, stone by stone, from North Bore Place at Chiddingstone. One of the most interesting aspects of a visit to Stoneacre is that one sees how the old rooms are lived in today, making use of the furniture of different periods and giving a feeling of continuity of life over the centuries. There is a fascinating exhibition of embroidery collected from English and European sources. Even the experts in our own party were amazed at the delicacy and beauty of the work. Altogether it was a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

Esther Martin

#### The Bluebell Railway 9th June

Twenty years ago steam trains were a part of everyday life. By 1960 the older steam locomotives and coaches were disappearing fast, as modern diesel and electric trains took their place, and in 1968 the last steam train ran on British Rail. However, as a result of a public meeting held on 15th March 1959, the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society was formed to try to re-open the line from Sheffield Park to Horsted Keynes, and in July 1960 the Bluebell Railway Ltd. was given permission to run a public railway. Between 1965 and 1970 the line was bought, and only then could Bluebell consider maintenance, new facilities and enlargement of its collection. A carriage shed was built, locomotives repaired, and a long term plan set up. The workforce are nearly all volunteers, who give their time and money to enable the line to continue to exist. Sheffield Park is a typical country station built in 1882 which is maintained in the Victorian style. Here we

first visited the Museum containing a display of small relics, photographs, notices and signs. Then to the sheds where we were conducted round some of the 28 steam locomotives, all in working order. Our visit culminated with a return journey by steam train to Horsted Keynes taking about  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour during which tea was served in the dining car. This experience brought back to us many nostalgic memories.

Ron Dipper

### Kew Palace 5th July

Kew was the last of a series of Royal Palaces which were built along the Thames between Richmond and Syon-Brentford from the middle ages to the 18th century. The Thames, rather than the very poor roads, was the main route into London. Kew Palace was originally the counting house of a city merchant, who built it in 1631. It is notable as an early example of the brickwork known as 'Flemish Bond' in which end facing and side facing bricks alternate. This technique was developed by the masons for the wealthy merchant class. The house was eventually bought by the Crown in 1781. George III and Queen Charlotte were the only King and Queen to live there. They used it as a country retreat with their family of fifteen children, although it was too small for all to sleep there and some slept in the houses in the gardens. However they all assembled for breakfast in the King's dining room every day. This is the first room which visitors see; it is panelled in 18C woodwork probably brought from the nearby White House when it was demolished in 1802. The brass door furniture also came from the same source, though plaster work survives from the original house. Next is the King's breakfast room and here 17C carved panelling from another room of the 1631 building has been used. 17C chairs are also on display. The Queen's rooms on the floor above retain some 17C friezes and fireplaces, while the dressing room has been re-decorated in the style fashionable in Queen Charlotte's day.

A very early harpsichord made for George III's father is interesting as is an inlaid ebony cabinet belonging to Queen Charlotte.

An exhibition of Worcester porcelain can be seen in the ante room of the Queen's bedchamber and below, in the page's waiting room is a collection of personal possessions used by the royal family who lived in the Palace. In all the rooms are pictures by famous artists from 17C - 19C. Many portraits of members of European royal families as well as of the English, who were connected by marriage, adorn the walls. In the extensive gardens are various interesting buildings, the most famous of which is the Great Pagoda. The Queen's cottage, built originally as the house for the princesses' pets, the Temple of the Winds and various other alcoves and King William's Temple are among those which survive.

Esther Martin

### Ham House 5th July

Ham House was built in 1610 and altered only twice, first by the addition in 1637-8 of the Great Staircase, beautifully panelled with a decorated plaster ceiling, and secondly during the 1670's by enlarging it with the addition of a new suite of rooms on two storeys along the South front, therefore it is a most interesting example of a luxurious 17C house. Much of the original furniture has survived and with the help of old inventories, preserved by the Tellemarche family, who inhabited the house for three centuries, old wall hangings and furnishings have been faithfully reproduced. With the help of the Guide book one can follow the way of life of the rich aristocrats of the period. From the Great Hall one enters the dining room, on either side of which are the suites used by the Duke and Duchess, with accommodation for personal attendants behind, so the family domestic life went on at this level, while the rooms above were used for great occasions and for show. The furniture is the original belonging to the house, or where items have disappeared, replacements have been made by the Victoria and Albert Museum with identical pieces of the period. These are beautifully carved or inlaid, upholstered in velvet or in rich silk and satin. Tapestries have survived in some rooms as have the rich hangings of four-poster beds. Most chimney pieces are of marble, many still have silver mounted chimney furniture. As in the 17C, visitors proceed from the more public rooms to the ante room to the bed chamber and finally to the Duke's or Duchess's closet at the far end, where none but their most intimate friends ever penetrated. The return is made passing through all rooms in reverse order. Beside portraits of the family there are paintings of religious subjects, classical subjects and landscapes with animals by famous artists of the period. The visit to Ham House, which does not feel like a museum gave a very lively impression of the way people of the aristocracy lived in this century.

Esther Martin

### Lancing College Chapel 3rd August

On arrival at Lancing we were met by the verger, Mr. Charles Welling, who was to be our guide.

First he gave an outline of the life of the founder of the College - Nathaniel Woodard. Born in 1811 he was called to the priesthood and largely by his own efforts gained entry to Oxford University. After his ordination and holding two church appointments in London he was made curate of New Shoreham in 1846.

In 1847 he opened a day school in his vicarage and in 1848 published 'A Plea for the Middle Classes' advocating a foundation brotherhood of inexpensive public schools. In the same year he founded St. Nicholas, Lancing and moved the school to its present site in 1858.

Successful fund raising enabled the foundation stone of the Chapel to be laid in 1868. The intention was to build a church large enough to hold all the students of the Southern Division of the Woodard Schools.

The style of the Chapel is 14th century English Gothic with 13th century French influences. It was designed by R.C. Carpenter and it required 70ft. deep foundations and is built of Sussex sandstone. The Chapel, though incomplete was dedicated in 1911 but it was not until 1947 that the Friends of Lancing Chapel were founded and commissioned Stephen Dykes to design the West end. Work on this still goes on.

The impressive nave rises 90ft. to the apex of the vault and there are four flights of steps leading up to the altar on which stands a beautiful Toledo Silver Crucifix. Behind the altar are three large tapestries designed by Lady Chilston and woven on the great loom at Merton Abbey. Patron Saints of some of the schools are portrayed in the tapestries. At the west end of the nave is the great Rose window, 32ft. in diameter and the largest in England. It is made up of 30,000 pieces of glass. Designed by Mr. Dykes Bower it includes the arms of 33 schools in the Woodard Corporation and symbolises the unity of the schools in their Central Minster.

The St. Nicolas Chapel has a 17th century carved wood figure of the Saint while the Lady Chapel has a new window which commemorates all those who have worked on the Chapel.

The Crypt was used as the school chapel for nearly forty years and has various memorial windows and interesting inscriptions while the College archives contain a remarkable photographic record of the building of the Chapel since 1870.

Jane Bridge

#### The Monks House, Rodmell 3rd August

After tea at Lancing we went to this small converted farmhouse which was the home of Virginia and Leonard Woolf from 1919 until his death in 1969. Here they, the Bloomsbury set and others, and Virginia did much of her writing.

The deeds of the house go back to 1707 and it was acquired in 1882 by one Jacob Verrall, a Surveyor of Highways, Assessor and Collector of Taxes and Overseer of the Poor. It was after his death that the Woolfs acquired the property. The records provide no evidence that the house ever had any connection with the Church.

There is a mixture of furniture ranging from French antique to modern and Virginia's sister Vanessa Bell has left her mark in the form of pictures and interior decoration.

The garden was greatly loved by Virginia and her husband and their ashes were scattered there.

Jane Bridge



The Royal Foundation of St. Katherine 21st September

The story of this Foundation goes back to William the Conqueror, and in 1148 Queen Matilda founded a hospital there. Since then it has always been in the Patronage of the Monarch and it has had a long and chequered history. The present Patron is Her Majesty, the Queen Mother who presides over the Court there at regular intervals.

It is regretted that there was insufficient support for us to follow up the visit arranged for the 21st September. The historic Church of St. Dunstan's, Stepney was also included in the visit arrangements. It is hoped that some of these interesting and unusual places of historic interest will inspire more people to come forward on future occasions.

Jane Bridge

O B I T U A R I E S

Arthur Charles Gooda Mason, aged 71, died at home from a heart attack after six years of illness quietly endured. He was a Gentleman of the Bank of England retiring after 40 years in 1970. He was an active member of both Battle Historical Society and Battle Camera Club serving on the committee for many years, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Miss Margery Weiner was a member of the Society for many years and when she retired from the Daily Telegraph in 1961, where she was the founder and first head of the information bureau, she turned to full time writing. Her best known book was "The Parvenu Princesses" describing the adventures of Napoleon's sisters. She also published a number of historical romances under the pseudonym of Sarah Lake. Many people in Battle may not be aware of the esteem she was held in in France. The Societe des Amis Malmaison are putting a commemorative tablet to Miss Weiner at the foot of a magnolia tree in the garden of Malmaison.

Kenneth N. Crowe, a keen photographer, was a member of Battle Camera Club and this Society for many years serving on both committees, and holding the office of Vice Chairman on this committee and that of the Museum Trust, always a willing worker he was most popular and will be greatly missed by us all.

We also received the sad news that Mr. A.E. Marson, M.B.E., a Vice-President of the Society for many years, died peacefully in his sleep on November 2nd at the age of 94. He was the Society's very first Chairman.



