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Note: The above list of members includes some who have completed the year 1963-64, but who have tendered their resignations. Members whose subscriptions are in arrear for two years are, by resolution of the Committee, deemed to have resigned.

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NOTE:—The Society is in no way responsible for the opinions of contributors as expressed in the above articles.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Society's year 1962 - 63 has unfortunately been marked by the temporary closure of the Museum, and storage of the contents, details of which appear in the report on the Annual General Meeting. During the year the following lectures of general interest, not reported in this number, were given to the Society: on October 26th "The History of Clocks", by Mr. F. W. Ashwin; on November 23rd "The English House in 1840", by Mr. A. E. Fellows, M.A.; on December 14th "The History of Fashion, with special reference to the Regency Period", by Mrs. Filby; on March 29th "The Impact of Industrial Changes on the Nineteenth Century Novel", by Miss B. N. Geary, B.A., D.LITT. A precis of the lecture on Kew Gardens by its late Curator, Mr. J. MacDonald Campbell, F.R.H.S., though of general interest, has been printed in this number to recall the help received by the Society in 1952, when the Garden's staff identified, from lumps of charcoal found during the excavation at Petley Wood, the various woods employed in the early 3rd century to roast iron ore on that site.

The departure of Lt.-Col. J. Darrell Hill, M.C., is a grievous loss to the fieldwork side of the Society's activities. He contributed some interim notes on his excavations at Bodiam to *Sussex Notes and Queries* (Vol. XV, p. 190), and to *Roman Britain in* 1960; but had not the time to wrote up the whole excavation before his departure, as not all the finds had been reported on. He has left all his notes and plans with the Society; from which it is hoped to write a complete account which may prove of value to Archaeology, as it is believed that Roman remains have never previously been found, or even suspected, at Bodiam. Col. Hill's discoveries should, as he expressed it, put this Society "on the map". It may also be mentioned here that the Society's discovery of the true course of the Rochester—Hastings Roman Road between Sandhurst and Staplecross should cause an amendment to be made to the hitherto accepted route.

It is hoped that the mantle of Col. Hill may fall, before long, on some member of the Society, so that the good work may go on.

HISTORIC WEST SUSSEX

With the assistance of 75 photographic slides, mostly in colour, Mr. Dyer took his audience on a tour of some of the principal places of historic and topographical interest in the western part of our county. He described it as a different land —differing from East Sussex in both its people and its scenery. One Sussex writer had said that the inhabitants of West Sussex were clearly Celtic in origin whilst those of East Sussex were just as definitely of Saxon descent; but whilst Mr. Dyer agreed that there was a marked distinction between the western folk and the eastern folk within the county boundary, he thought their origins were rather Saxon and Jutish respectively. Unless the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle were to be totally discounted, Aella, who founded the Kingdom of the South Saxons in 491, was hardly the type to have left many Romano-British within the confines of his domain, let alone a majority over his own followers. On the other hand, there were many indications that East Sussex was under Jutish influence—probably that of tribes who spilled over, so to speak, from the Jutish Kingdom of Kent. Be that as it may, the difference was undeniable and the changes in landscape one met in travelling westward through the county were even more marked. Kipling's vivid word-picture of "The blunt, bow-headed, whale-backed Downs" of East Sussex was still true, despite the efforts of the afforestation experts, whilst Belloc's "I will hold my house in a high wood, within a walk of the Sea" certainly indicated the western part of Sussex. When, nearly a century ago, Authority divided the county into two divisions, the line of demarcation, although probably dictated purely by administrative considerations, nevertheless defined the distinction between the two topographies with almost exact accuracy. On crossing the border, one hardly needed the signposts to inform the voyager that he had left East for West, or vice versa.

Mr. Dyer's first picture was an interior view of Chichester Cathedral depicting the 15th century Arundel Screen, restored to its original position as a memorial to the late Bishop Bell; but with open arches which allowed a clear view of the High Altar from the Nave. Another interior "shot" was a vista of the superb Boxgrove church, the Early English choir of the Boxgrove Priory fane, rescued from demolition at the time of the Dissolution by the efforts of the ninth Lord de la Warr.

Next came photographic studies of some of the fine medieval bridges of West Sussex, notably those of Trotton and Stopham. Some time was spent in Trotton Church with its striking mural

of the Seven Graces and the Seven Deadly Sins on the west wall, also the fine brass of Thomas Lord Camoys and his wife Elizabeth—formerly Harry Hotspur's wife and Shakespeare's "Gentle Kate"—on their table tomb; also the brass memorial to an earlier and somewhat unconventional de Camoys, Margarethe—probably the oldest brass to a woman in the country (1307). West Stoke's lovely little church with its lowside door was visited and Mr. Dyer recounted the traditions concerning lowside doors and windows and cited various examples in Sussex of the "kinked" chancel. From West Stoke to that haunt of mystery and legend, Kingly Vale, was a natural progression and various views were shewn of this great forest of yew trees, semi-encircled by Bow Hill with its numerous tumuli. The large, well-defined barrows on the summit were, in true Sussex fashion, called "The Devil's Humps"—not to be confused with "The Devil's Jumps on Treyford Hill (also shewn).

Bosham, that picturesque village of legend, was depicted; and Mr. Dyer told the traditional stories concerning Canute, Godwin, the Danes, and Harold, in which Bosham figures. He reminded his audience that both ends of Sussex appear prominently in the drama of the Norman Conquest. It was from Bosham that Harold sailed in 1064 on that ill-fated voyage which had such an important bearing on the story which culminated in 1066 on "Senlac Hill", "Hastings Plain", "The Hill of the Hoar-Apple Tree" or whatever name one chose to apply to the locale of the Saxon-Norman conflict in East Sussex.

The audience accompanied Mr. Dyer along that beautiful walk, Tennyson's Lane, which leads from Haslemere to the summit of Blackdown, the highest point in Sussex (915 feet), beloved of Lord Tennyson. From the "Temple of the Four Winds" the audience surveyed pictorially the beauties of the Weald, stretching away to the South Downs, the view which inspired the poet's immortal lines:

"Green Sussex fading into blue
With one gray glimpse of Sea".

The charming villages east of Midhurst were visited, notably Woolbeding with its clipped yews and Saxon nave, and Chithurst with its quaint Saxon-Norman church on a plateau which might have been a defence post or a burial ground in early Saxon days.

Midhurst, the home of the Brownes and

"Poor Petworth, proud people,
High church, and crooked steeple"

came into the itinerary, particularly the attractive view of Petworth's church tower, now shorn of its steeple, seen from Lombard Street.

Again quoting Kipling:

"The little lost Downs Churches
"Praise the Lord who made the Hills",

Mr. Dyer selected, as entirely typical, Didling Church with its venerable pews and ancient chalk tub-font, and unspoiled Up Waltham with an apsidal Norman chancel.

A view of Chanctonbury Ring from the air was shewn, also one with Wiston in the foreground; the home of Charles Goring who planted the famous clump of beech trees in 1760.

The fine churches of Old and New Shoreham also that remarkable building, The Marlpins—now one of the Sussex Archaeological Society's Museums—appeared on the screen and finally the audience looked back over West Sussex at sunset from that magnificent vantage-point, Devil's Dyke Hill, affording perhaps the most striling view of the "frozen waves" of the Downs, with Fulking and Edburton Hills in the foreground and the inevitable Chanctonbury Ring in the distance, silhoutted against the evening sky. W.H.D.

PAGAN SAXON SUSSEX

In 1913 E. T. Leeds published his *Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Settlements*, which seemed to contradict many of the conclusions drawn by the historians from the literary evidence of Bede and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. Since that date there has been much research by many archaeologists and historians which has eventually made it possible to write a narrative of the invasion period which reconciles the apparently conflicting evidence. This paper aims at doing this for Sussex during the pagan period A.D. 450 to A.D. 500.

The main archaeological material comes from the two chief known Anglo-Saxon cemeteries of Highdown and Alfriston. Mr. Henty of Ferring Grange discovered the cemetery when planting the clump of trees on Highdown Hill; and Sir Hercules Read supervised the excavation and published the results with many illustrations in *Archæologia* LIV, pp. 369-382 and LV, pp. 203-14.[1] In 1912 trenches for the foundation of a house at Winton Street, a quarter of a mile north of Alfriston,

[1] See also: *Guide to the Anglo-Saxon Collection in Worthing Museum*, 2nd edition, A. E. Wilson.

revealed the other cemetery, and Lord Gage the landowner and Miss Gregory, for whom the house was being built, readily assented to excavation by Mr. A. F. Griffith and Mr. L. F. Salzman. They published the finds in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vols. LVI, pp. 16-53 and LVII, pp. 197-210.[2]

The first reference to settlement in Sussex is that in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, under the date A.D. 477: "Aella and his three sons, Cymen, Wlencing and Cissa, came into Britain with three ships at that place which is called *Cymenesora* and there killed many Britons, and drove some into flight into the wood which is called *Andredeslea*." To understand the significance of this, and the origin of some of the grave-goods found at Highdown and Alfriston, it is necessary to summarize the literary evidence for the invasions during the years preceding A.D. 477.

Even before the breakdown of Roman rule in Britain there were Teutonic settlers in the south-eastern parts. During the years following A.D. 410, when the Emperior Honorius had withdrawn troops from Britain to defend Rome, the 'cities' of Britain had to look to their own defences. Trouble developed between the highly Romanized citizens and the more Celtic groups of the west under such leacders as Vortigern. At the same time the Picts from Scotland, Scots from Ireland, and Teutonic raiders from across the North Sea, threatened southern Britain. To resist the pressure from Picts and Scots, Vortigern called in Teutonic troops to help him. "They then (A.D. 443) sent to the Angles and made the same request of the chieftains of the English". Bede states that these were settled in the eastern part of the island. Archaeological evidence strongly supports this early settlement in East Anglia. The more Romanized citizens made the last of their appeals ("The groans from Britain") to Aetius the Roman governor of Gaul for help against Vortigern's "violent plantations of Saxons" (Gildas). At that time Aetius was busy with the Huns; but to watch against any possible help from Roman Gaul, Vortigern used his Teutonic troops to occupy Kent in A.D. 449, and gave them "land in the south-east of this land" . . . After the murder of Aetius in Gaul had removed the danger of invasion, Hengist, one of the chieftain's Teutonic settlers, quarrelled with Vortigern and demanded more land. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* records a series of battles along the North Downs towards what is now known as Hampshire. During these battles, Hengist and other chiefs lost their lives. Archaeological

[2] Reference to these articles will be given as *Arch.* LIV and LV, *Guide* and *S.A.C.* LVI and LVII.

evidence again supports this transfer from East Anglia to Kent.

At this stage Aella, who had landed in A.D. 477 in Sussex, took charge of the forces of the Teutonic invaders fighting against the Romano-British forces rallying under the leadership of Ambrosius Aurelianus. The *A.-S. Chronicle* calls Aella 'Bretwalda'—"the first who had so great authority was Aella, King of the South Saxons". (*A.-S. Chron.* A.D. 829). Professor Hawkes argues cogently (in his *Dark Ages of Britain*", pp. 94 *et seq.*) from Gildas, Nennius, *A.-S. Chronicle,* and other authorities, for taking A.D. 443 as a firm date, and then accepting Gildas' statement of 44 years later for the Battle of Mons Badon, where Aella and his forces met with serious defeat. The story for the South-East would then run like this:

A.D. 477 Aella landed in Sussex.
A.D. 485 Aella fought with the Britons at Mercredesburn.
A.D. 487 Battle of Mons Baden. Aella retreated towards the Kent and Sussex coast.
A.D. 491 Aella and Cissa besieged Andredesceastre (Pevensey) and slew all that were therein, and no Briton was left alive.

Place names, carefully used after a study of their earliest recorded forms, throw considerable light on the invasion period. (See *Place Names and the Anglo-Saxon settlement and colonization.* A. H. Smith 1956). The suffix *ing* has a long and complicated history. Basically, it meant 'that which pertains or belongs to something or someone'. The form most useful for our purpose is the final *ingas* (a nominative plural as in Hastings (Hastingas), the people of Haest. In documents it often occurs in the dative plural from *ingum.* Such names are common in Sussex, originally as folk names; but soon became established as local names when the group of people so named had settled in what was to be their permanent homestead. So *Haestingas* is not really the tribe of the *Haestingas,* but rather the district or place of the Haestingas. Names of this type belong to the earliest period of the English occupation, and describe the social units which existed in the unstable times of folk wandering and colonization. There is no evidence that such names are true patronymics—the sons of a certain person: they are more often associations, not of blood relations, but of a group of people brought together by dependence on a common leader, living together in a particular locality, or coming together for mutual political, economic, or defence

purposes. (*Place-Name Socy.* XXV, p. 298). The *ingas* names which indicate a personal relationship did not survive as a living type beyond the period of settlement. The personal names of them were obsolete by the time Anglo-Saxon records began. Two local examples of this are Fletching (Flescinges) from the otherwise unknown personal name related to the Old High German *Flaco*; and Gensing (Gensinges), surviving as Gensing Gardens, St. Leonards, from a name related to Old High German *Gan*. This ending is shared on the Continent by other old Germanic languages. Such names are distributed in the South-east of England, where other evidence supports early settlement. On the Selsey peninsula, where the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* places the landing of Aella and his sons in 477, are Wittering (Witteringes), and Lippering. Around Highdown Hill, where there was an Anglo-Saxon burial yielding grave-goods of the invasion period, are Patching, Worthing, and Goring. Along the greensand ridge traversed by the Roman road from Hardham posting station to Malling (*Mallinges*) near Lewes, where other early grave goods have been found, are Perching, Fulking, Poynings, and Ditchling.

In East Sussex there remain traces of a few definitely pagan Saxon place-names. The Anglo-Saxon *wig* or *weoh* denotes a sacred place of temple. This word appears in the name Patchway (a field in Stanmer Park) which occurred as *Pettelswige* in a charter dated about A.D. 765. This combination of a personal name of the owner with a suffix is a typically pagan usage. The other examples of this term *wig* are Wilegh and Whyly, the earliest known forms of which are *Wylegh*, denoting the clearing (*leah*) where heathen rights were performed.

The grave goods from Highdown and Alfriston include a great variety of objects which indicate the regions from which the raiders came. There are no early cruciform brooches such as are found in East Anglia and Kent; but there are types derived from them. There are numerous applied and saucer brooches with designs which were common in Saxon cemeteries on the Continent, especially at Galgenberg and Westerwanna. Some pottery at Highdown is a later development of the *Buckelurnen* (humpbacked urns). The earliest forms to be found in England were in East Anglia, and had a well-defined footstand, a globular body, a fairly narrow neck, an everted rim, with profuse ornament, and one or more raised, slashed, or cabled collars. This pottery, like the saucer brooches, is common at Westerwanna in the Saxon regions south and west of the Elbe. The later form, which has a rounded base, without footring, is more common at Galgenberg, which had saucer brooches identical with the earliest at Highdown.

Certain classical ornament found on brooches, buckle plates, and similar objects in Kentish and Sussex cemeteries, presented a difficult problem recently solved by Mrs. S. Chadwick Hawkes; and Miss Evison's study of silver plate and silver wire inlay also helped in the solution. Previous to these articles there seemed several possible answers. One in much favour was the survival of Romano-Celtic craftsmen to work in Britain for the newcomers; but Mrs. Hawkes shows that there is a distinct break in the evolution of design. The examples from Kent and Sussex graves have designs which have some different period of development from those common in Romano-British times.

An important factor in the solution of this problem is the appearance in Kent and Sussex of classical designs on penannular and quoit brooches. This form of brooch derives from the Romano-Celtic brooch found largely in the Severn valley and the Celtic Wesor. Celtic craftsmen developed this into the famous Irish brooches of which the Tara brooch is the richest example.

Highdown cemetery yielded one of the purely Welsh type of the penannular brooch and a number of brooches derived from this type, some of which had classical designs; but others had more degenerate Saxon ornamentation. At Alfriston, a small silver example shows both the close connection with the Welsh type, and good classical decoration. More magnificent than these are the silver quoit brooch from Sarre, Kent, and the fragments from Howletts consisting of silver plate with two main zones gilded. Both of these have chased designs, and zones of animal ornament, as has one of the Highdown bronze brooches. Some of these animals represent running animals confronting in pairs, others have animals with backward-turned heads. Other objects with similar animal ornament and silver plate inlay include the buckle plate and counter plate from Alfriston and the belt slide from Highdown.

The characteristics of these and similar objects include zones or ornament laid out in concentric zones, contrasting colour, stylised scroll ornament, masked faces, and several classes of symmetrically placed animals. Mrs. Hawkes argues for a Canterbury workshop for the earlier and better examples, with some examples (e.g. the belt-slide from Highdown, the buckle with rondels from Highdown, and the buckle and plate from Alfriston) reaching Sussex during the bretwaldership of Aelle; but later, for a workshop in Sussex having connection with Kent and the Thames Valley.

Her main conclusions may be summed up in the following way. The British penannular brooch came into the hands of

Germanic workmen who treated it in a different way to produce the broad quoit or annular brooch. This is the only link with British craftsmanship. The Highdown and Alfriston buckle sets are characteristically West German: there is a considerable derivation from Roman art. South Scandinavia and Schleswig in particular provide good evidence not only for the impact of classical craftwork from the Danube and Rhineland but also imitation and adaptation by North German metal workers. This region gives the continuity of survival of late Roman style entirely missing in England. A fifth century hoard in Scania (Southern Sweden) includes sheet silver ornamented by stamp patterns and bearing wire inlay. Some objects have projecting horses' heads, remarkably similar to those from Highdown, which can be traced back to the Rhine and Danube. Here and there are also plate brooches with animal ornament. She concludes: "The case set out by Leeds in 1936 is therefore no longer tenable. Whereas these objects were previously held to be made by sub-Romano-British craftsmen in the period before A.D. 450; it can now be seen that they were in fact made during the succeeding half century by Germanic metal workers for the Anglo-Saxon overlords of Kent and Sussex." (*Archaelogia* XCVIII, pp. 71-72). That article gives illustrations of most of the objects with this sub-classical decoration. Miss Evison's main article is in the *Antiquaries' Journal* XXXV, pp. 240 to end.

THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

Mr. Campbell, late Curator at Kew Gardens, opened his lecture by giving their history. The Botanic Gardens started as a private venture in 1759 by Princess Augusta in her own private domain of Kew House (which has since disappeared); and they were originally about 9 acres in extent. This explains how it comes about that the most famous botanic gardens in the world are situated on a soil which was originally so infertile and sandy. The adjacent gardens of Richmond Lodge were then joined to those of Kew House. Richmond Lodge was occupied by Princess Augusta's son George III, who inherited his mother's tastes. They were fortunate in their choice of helpers in the creation and maintenance of these gardens, the first Director being the Earl of Bute, a botanist of some distinction. He was followed by the famous Sir Joseph Banks, under whose direction the collections were greatly augmented, and the introduction of exotic plants was accelerated.

Just prior to the handing over of the Gardens to the nation by the Royal Family the collections had been somewhat

neglected; but in 1841 the Gardens were taken over by the State, and soon afterwards the extensive parklands of the two properties were added. In 1898 Queen Victoria presented the Queen's Cottage grounds, with the proviso that they were to be maintained in their semi-wild state. These properties, extending to nearly 300 acres, form the Royal Botanic Gardens as we know them today.

The lecturer reminded us that Kew Gardens primarily serve scientific purposes. The Institution has as its main objective the accurate identification of plants and the provision of information in the field of botany, both pure and applied. In connection with the applied aspects the Institution has important functions, not only with respect to identification, but also in relation to the economic exploitation of plants. It is an important source of dissemination of botanical material either in the form of seeds or of living specimens to all parts of the Commonwealth, and indeed throughout the world, and has played a most important part in the development of the rubber industry, the cocoa industry, and the introduction of other economic plants. With our increase of knowledge of the importance of safeguarding such distribution from being the means of dissemination diseases, Kew functions as a quarantine station.

The Herbarium and Library house contain millions of dried specimens which represent a permanent record of the character of species that have been described by botanists in the past, whilst the Library of some 50,000 volumes is perhaps the richest taxonomic library in the world. To consult these botanists come from all parts of the world. A second department houses collections of plant products of all types. The Jodrell Laboratory is concerned with the internal structure of plants. Each department has its own specialised staff.

The fourth department comprises the living collections under the charge of the Curator whose staff includes assistants, foremen and gardeners. The living collections comprise some 45,000 species and varieties, and the surplus material is utilised for research and exchange. Exchange materials are established with all botanic gardens; and research material is made available to students throughout the world. Numerous requests for identification and advice are received, and all are answered. The lecturer gave examples of some of the amusing requests that are dealt with. He also commended women as gardeners; because they did not stop working while they talk. After a racy account of the gardens and the people who come to see them, the lecturer concluded by showing lovely coloured slides of many of the Gardens' beauties.

CATSFIELD MANOR

On May 3rd 1963, 44 members attended a social evening held at Catsfield Manor, at the kind invitation of Major and Mrs. Y. A. Burges, and greatly appreciated the facilities afforded to view their collection of paintings and historical objects. The Rector, The Rev. A. C. A. Chetwynd-Talbot, also kindly showed members over Catsfield Church.

Catsfield was origionally a single estate held before the Conquest by Elfalm. After the Conquest it formed part of the lands of the Count of Eu, and in 1086 the sub-tenant was called Werence. At the beginning of the 13th century, the fee of Catsfield was held by Simon de Sumeri, whose son (or grandson) died just before 1289, leaving a widow called Pernel. Simon de Sumeri left 5 daughters, coheirs, who shared the estate. By about 1446, the advowson was divided between 5 owners representing in turn Thomas Levett, George Hardnesse, John Mavesyn, Bartholomew Bolney, and John Yelding. By 1664 three of the parts of Catsfield were in the hands of John Yelding, a descendant of the last-named. From him, their ownership can be traced to the Papillon family. The part held by Thomas Levett originated with the part of the manor held by Thomas, son of John Levett in 1347, and it became the separate manor of Catsfield Levett. That portion remained in the possession of the Levett family until it was inherited by an heiress called Mary Levett, who married Thomas Eversfield, and died in 1608.

The family of Eversfield owned it for the next 200 years; so presumably the present house was built by an Eversfield; but the actual date has not been traced. It is said to be Queen Anne in design, and she reigned from 1702 to 1714. The fireback in one room beats the date 1725; and as the bow windows of that room are said to be a Georgian alteration, it is possible that the fireback was put in then. The house extended further north at one time, and the interior has obviously been considerably altered. In 1840 the front door was on the south side; the drive went straight across country to Horns Corner; and the lodge of the modern house Horns Hill was then the lodge of the Manor House. The Eversfield family were still owning the property in 1825; but sold it shortly afterwards to General Sir Andrew Pilkington, who is known to have been in possession in 1835. In 1870, his widow was holding it with her daughter's husband, the Rev. Burrell Hayley. Mrs. Hayley is said to have lived well into her nineties; and after her death the property changed hands several times until bought by Major Y. A. Burges, D.L., J.P., in 1955.

When occupied by the Hayleys, the house was called Church House, though it has never, in fact, been a rectory. The Hayleys renamed it Catsfield Place, as the original Catsfield Place had by then become a farm. In 1937, however, the farm resumed the name Catsfield Place, and this house was renamed Catsfield Manor; presumably because someone decided that it was once the manor house of Catsfield.

ALFRISTON AND BERWICK

Once again the first outdoor meeting of the Society was held on a brilliantly fine day, and this year thirty-seven members attended. Both places visited are associated with Pagan Saxon Sussex; the large Saxon cemetery discovered at Alfriston in 1912 being mentioned in Dr. Wilson's article in this number. The name Alfriston, pronounced *Awst'n*, means *Aelfric's Farm*; while Berwick, pronounced as spelt, and not like its northern namesake, means simply *Hamlet*. (Place Name Society, Vol. VII).

Alfriston Clergy House

This was the first building ever to be acquired by the National Trust, which bought it, in a ruinous condition, for £10 in 1896. The quarter acre garden was bought in 1955. It is a pre-Reformation parish priest's house, half-timbered and thatched, dating from about 1350. After the Reformation it continued in use for some time as the vicarage.

St. Andrew's Church, Alfriston

The Vicar, The Rev. H. G. Jack, welcomed the Society and described his church. Built on a circular mound about 1360, it has never been altered or added to, so that it remains a very fine example of the transition period between 'Decorated' and 'Perpendicular'. The flintwork fabric is considered to be one of the finest examples of the craft in the country. The plan is cruciform, 115 by 70 feet at the crossing, with no aisles. The central tower is surmounted by a graceful shingled broach spire. Because of its size, it is known as 'The Cathedral of the Downs'. The proportions and tracery of the windows are noticeable features: in them, the modern glass is so good that it bears comparison with the little ancient glass which remains. Unusual features are a second lowside window in the north

wall of the chancel, the concave fluting of the semi-octagonal piers supporting the lofty tower arches, two hooks on the easternmost beam in the chancel for supporting the Lenten Veil, and the fact that the bells are rung from the church floor. The church undoubtedly presents a bare appearance. It formerly possessed a rood screen, chapels in the transepts, and frescoes on the walls. The latter were visible as late as 1887, and the subjects recorded; but they have now all been white-washed over. Moreover, as the parish has never had a squire or notable family living in it, there are hardly any monuments.

St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Berwick

A description of the church and its modern paintings was given by Miss Hand. A large Saxon burial mound occupies part of the churchyard, and it is remarkable that the other churches in the neighbourhood, Willingdon, Wilmington, Alfriston, Lullington, Alciston, and Selmeston, all seem to be associated with pre-Christian burial rites. Tradition says that the first church on the site was of wood. Then one was built in Saxon times of flint, of which part of a wall and the font remain. The present church dates from about the middle of the 12th century; and it is noticeable that one of the pillars has been built over part of the font. In the Civil War the Rector was turned out, and an 'Intruder' installed. The church fell into decay and was struck by lightning in 1774. In 1837 it had become almost a ruin when the Rev. E. Boys Ellman came as curate. He returned as Rector to complete 66 years in the parish in 1906. Between 1846 and 1857 he carried out a remarkable rebuilding and restoration to produce the church as seen today. The wall paintings were executed during the war of 1939-45, after the nave windows had been destroyed; the church being chosen to illustrate the idea of transferring art from windows to walls, and thereby lightening the church. After they were painted, a flying bomb removed some windows and much of the roof. The paintings are by Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell, and Quentin Bell. The two latter artists have introduced Sussex scenes into their paintings, local models sat for the figures, and Dr. Bell, Bishop of Chichester, and the Rector of Berwick also appear. There was some diversity of opinion among members on the effect produced. While the chancel paintings were generally admired, some considered the figures in the nave too large for the size of the church; particularly in the 'Glory' over the chancel arch, which at first sight on entering the church appears to consist largely of angels' legs.

DITCHLING AND CLAYTON

This meeting was attended by 24 members in weather officially described as "showery with fine intervals".

Anne of Cleves' House, Ditchling

Arthur Mee, in his book on Sussex refers to "the half-timbered house with its Tudor chimneys, outside staircase, and clustering roofs, where lived the simple Anne . . ." Whether Anne of Cleves ever did live there is problematical; but the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart Smith, have been at some pains to ascertain that King Henry VIII did, in fact, grant to Anne of Cleves the advowson of Ditchling Church and with it "the fine half-timbered house opposite the church gate". Both were previously the property of the Priory of Lewes. The house is certainly extensive, with a main entrance of a later date, and was for many years divided into three separate residences. The outside staircase is not Tudor, but was added in the last century, when the village library was housed in a room over the porch. A fine wrought-iron fireback in the main living room bears the date 1648; while at the other end of the room is an equally fine specimen bearing our present Royal Arms. A small bedroom upstairs is reputed to have wall paintings hidden beneath layers of colour wash; which the owners propose to verify before redecoration. A feature of the main bedroom is a magnificent four-poster bed bought at a sale by the present owners. On enquiry, it was learnt that it came originally from "an old house in Sussex called 'Anne of Cleves House' at Ditchling". The Society is very grateful to Mrs. Lockhart Smith, who, at some inconvenience to herself, was able to show members round her historic house.

Clayton Church

The first impression of Clayton Church, standing, as it does, close beneath the South Downs, is one of quiet serenity. There is much Saxon work in the church, and in particular the very beautiful Saxon chancel arch. The medieval wall paintings, for which the church is celebrated, are rather fragmentary; but a fund is in being for their restoration. Small reproductions are placed at eye level, and it is interesting to note the similarity of design of the painting depicting "Christ in Glory", to the gigantic tapestry recently hung in Coventry Cathedral. L.C.G.

Note: According to Mee and Barr-Hamilton, the chancel arch dates from second half 10th century, the chancel and paintings 13th century, the doorway is Norman, and the brass of Richard Idon 1523 is the latest brass of a priest in the county.

CHARING AND LITTLE CHART

On a warm summer's day, 34 members attended this meeting. The situation of Charing, just below the prehistoric trackway, later called the Pilgrims' Way, doubtless led to its importance in the Middle Ages; but the name, according to Ekwall, merely means "Corra's place".

The Manor. This has been in possession of the church at least since the reign of Egbert King of Kent (A.D. 664-673) if not from that of the British king Vortigern in the 5th century. In 1070 it was transferred to Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, and his successors. The Manor House, wrongly called the Archbishop's Palace, standing close to the church, is now Palace Farm. Members saw the gatehouse and great archway, erected probably A.D. 1333-1348, the Banqueting Hall, now a barn, and the house itself, erected probably between 1486 and 1500. The Manor House, being then very large and richly furnished, Archbishop Waring there entertained King Henry VII on March 24th 1507, and King Henry VIII on May 23rd 1520; the latter king being on his way to the Field of the Cloth of Gold with a retinue of about 4,000. In 1546, Archbishop Cranmer was obliged to surrender the manor to the Crown. Queen Mary granted it to Cardinal Pole in 1586, and in 1629 Charles I granted it to William White. It then passed through many hands until bought in 1724 by the Whelers of Otterden, who still own it.

Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. The Rev. D. P. Lury told members the history of his church, which by tradition stands on ground given by King Ethelbert to Saint Augustine. However, the oldest parts of the present church are the lancet windows of the nave, which date from 1220 to 1250. The transepts were probably added not long afterwards. The tower with angle buttresses and beacon turret was built between 1461 and 1483. On Tuesday August 4th 1590 a Mr. Dios fired his gun at a bird on the roof, and set the church on fire. It was almost completely destroyed, and the bells melted. The nave, being the responsibility of the parishioners, was repaired by 1592; but the chancel, the responsibility of the patron, was not repaired till 1620. The beams put in the nave are a feature of the church, being painted in the Italian style, which gives the impression that they are carved. They have recently been repainted by artists among the congregation. The church possesses one of the five "Vamping Horns" in England: a kind a megaphone for making a loud humming noise to lead the choir in the 17th/18th centuries.

Saint Richard was rector of Charing before being consecrated Bishop of Chichester in 1245. King Richard I is said to have presented to the church, at the end of the 12th century, the block on which John the Baptist was supposed to have been beheaded. It was long an object of veneration by Canterbury and other pilgrims; and, so the story goes, was hidden at the Reformation. It has, however, never been found.

Little Chart Church. Only portions survive of the XV century church described in Arthur Mee's *Book of Kent,* as it received a direct hit from a flying bomb. As the village in the valley is nearly a mile from the old church on the hill, a new church at the village has been built, of pleasing architecture in brown brickwork. It was this which Mr. Rogers, churchwarden, and Chairman of the Charing Historical Society, showed to members. Recovered from the old church is the effigy of Sir John Darrell, personal attendant of Henry VII, with the feet resting in an unusual manner on the figure of a little monk. There are also XVII century memorials of the Darrell family, and two XV century helmets. Glass from the tower window, depicting a seated Madonna and kneeling Child, has been saved, and put in a frame.

LULLINGSTONE ROMAN VILLA AND CASTLE

Twenty members attended this visit, the second which the Society has made to Lullingstone. The first visit made on July 22nd 1959, was fully reported in No. 8 of the *Transactions.* Since that date, the excavation of the Roman Villa has been completed, and a timber hall measuring 145 feet by 50 feet erected over the site by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works; which has spent £22,000 on what is now recognized as one of the most important Romano-British sites ever to have been discovered in the English countryside. The house probably resembled an extensive bungalow built with a wooden framework filled in with daub, and roofed with heavy red *tegulae* and *imbrices* of the usual Roman type. It occupied a low terrace cut back into the hillside. In front, the garden sloped down to the River Darenth, then a well-organized waterway; and was flanked by farm buildings which included a large granary and some hayrick steadles. Behind the villa, on a higher shelf stood a square temple-mausoleum, and a small circular temple, both pagan. The whole must have formed a prominent and important group of buildings, visible from

afar. Some of the features and discoveries are rare—the Christian chapel, the square tomb-chamber beneath the cult-room in the mausoleum, and the height to which the walls remain (8 feet in places); while the 15 white and 15 red-brown glass gaming pieces, found as grave-goods, form the only complete set of pieces ever found in Britain for a contemporary game which is thought to have resembled Backgammon.

ROCHESTER

On July 13th, 35 members paid a very enjoyable visit to our nearest cathedral city—one of the four or five nearer to Battle than our own. A few members who, three weeks before, had visited the famous Norman Abbey of Bec, recalled a tablet there recording that not only Archbishops Lanfranc and Anselm, but the first three Norman Bishops of Rochester, and also Henry, 2nd Abbot of Battle (1096-1102) were remembered in England as sons of Bec. Thus Abbot Henry was the contemporary and no doubt the friend of Gundulf, the second of these bishops of Rochester; who was a great architect, and built the central tower and adjacent parts of the Cathedral (since much altered and encased by later Norman and subsequent work), as also the White Tower in London. In 1082, he founded the Benedictine abbey on the south side of the Cathedral; which at his death housed 60 monks.

By the kindness of the Dean (Bishop Stannard) we had the privilege of sitting with the "Friends of Rochester Cathedral" at their annual gathering in the cloister garth, admiring the beautifully cleaned and restored eastern wall of the former cloister, and of hearing an address by the cathedral architect. He proved to be none other than our friend W. E. Godfrey; who on September 13th 1961 conducted members round the ruins of St. Pancras Priory, Lewes. A shower conveniently drove members into the cathedral just as he had finished his description of the cloisters; where in due course they attended a special evensong and enjoyed the beautiful singing of the choir. The Cathedral, which members were shown in detail after the service, possesses seven rows of Norman pillars, each bay being different, and a low broad crypt similar to that at Canterbury.

Near the west end of the nave a curved strip of bronze in the floor marks the *eastern* end of the apse of the Saxon Cathedral; for Rochester was the second diocese founded in England by St. Augustine and Ethelbert of Kent in 604. It was at Roches-

ter that the Roman road south through Maidstone, Bodiam, and Sedlescombe, diverged from Watling Street; and if, with necessary digressions, this road continued effective into Saxon times, the link between Rochester and the Hastings area may have been fairly close. Some slight evidence of this, perhaps, is offered by the resemblance between *Yalding*, in the Medway Valley, and *Yielding* manor, south of the Baldslow Ridge; and the same basic sounds *y-l-t(d)-n* occur in *Iltonsbeth*, the medieval name of the ford where Sedlescombe bridge now stands.

Near the junction of the two Roman roads stand the walls of Rochester Castle, also built by Gundulf; though the magnificent keep, the only surviving feature, was built by a later Norman, William de Corbeuil, in 1130. From the top of this lofty pile, with its stately internal arches, members had a fine view over the Medway, including the lofty new bridge which carries the arterial road to the Channel ports. Heavy traffic, however, still passes up the High Street, where our slow progress enabled us to note the many fine houses of various centuries which line that part of Watling Street. C.T.C.

HAWKHURST AND APPLEDORE

The attendance at this autumn meeting was 52, and the first visit was made to:

Papermill House, Field Green, Hawkhurst. This fine example of a Tudor hall-type farmhouse, is the home of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. P. F. White, who kindly showed members round. It is one of a number built in this part of the Weald, and is said on good authority to date from 1505. The main entrance leads into the right-hand end of the central hall; which remains open to the rafters as originally designed. The stairs to the upper rooms are situated to the right again. The fireplace and chimney, when installed, were placed at the left end of the hall, and now incorporate a cupboard made from the headboard of an old Dutch bed. The house was restored in recent years by Mr. Gunther of Hawkhurst; the original old beams were treated and filled in with modern plaster, skilfully pargetted to retain the original appearance of the house. Paper is known to have been made there from before A.D. 1600 to A.D. 1880; the nearby stream being dammed to provide power for the paper mill. All the paper so made was brown paper. L.C.G.

Appledore

The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* records that in 893, a Danish army with horses embarked at Boulogne in 250 ships, and entered the River Limen, up which the ships were towed. A fortified post to serve as a base was established at Appledore. After a year at Appledore, this force proceeded to Bamfleet to join Hasten's 80 ships which had been operating in the Thames. Soon afterwards, King Alfred's troops routed the Danes on Thames-side, destroyed Bamfleet fort, cpatured the garrison, including Hasten's wife and family, and burnt the ships. Appledore, lying in a gap in the prehistoric sea cliffs which fringe Romney Marsh, was in Roman and Saxon times a river port on the Limen, a river which has disappeared from the scene, either by changing its course and name and becoming the Rother, or on capture by that river. Its course along the base of the cliffs followed roughly that afterwards selected for the Royal Military Canal; and the strange line of 7 churches, little more than a mile apart (Appledore, Kenardington, Warehorne, Ruckinge, Bilsington, Bonnington, and Hurst) must surely mark the site of former riverine settlements.

Appledore church dates from the 14th century; and not long after it was built, it was burnt by the French. Marks of the fire can be seen on the tower arch. It is notable for its good ancient and modern stained glass windows, its carved woodwork, and small heraldic escutcheons.

The Royal Military Canal

This work, of which a long reach can be seen from Appledore Bridge, was constructed as part of a second line of defence against a French landing on the shores of Romney Marsh; the first line being the Martello Towers. Complete inundation of the Marsh being both undesirable and hardly possible, Lt.-Col. John Brown, D.A.G. to General Sir David Dundas, Commanding Southern District, drew up a plan for a water obstacle to cut off the threatened area. It was approved by Parliament on Sept. 18th 1804, work was begun two months later, and was completed in Oct. 1806. The specification was 60 feet wide at the top, 40 at the bottom, and 9 feet deep; the excavated earth to form a bank on the inland side, behind which was to be a road 50 feet wide. The original projected length was to be 19 miles, from Hythe to Boonsbridge, not far from Rye. Subsequently extended at both ends, the final form of the water obstacle became a canal from Shorncliffe to Boonsbridge,

the River Rother thence to its junction with the Brede, the Brede to Winchelsea, and then a canal again to Cliff End near Fairlight. Rennie, the famous engineer, directed the construction. The money voted for its construction was £200,000; but it actually cost £140,870-19-10½; of which £38,500 was paid for the 564 acres, 3 roods, and 10 poles of land acquired. The labour force was 360 labourers and 600 'navigators', as the canal diggers were called—which is the origin of the abbreviation 'navvy'. When the contractor went bankrupt, the Canal was completed under army direction by 3 Militia battalions and 500 labourers.

When the threat of invasion passed, the canal was adapted for commercial use, and made a substantial profit till 1850. Navigation ceased on the eastern portion about 1890; but that up the Rother and into the western portion of the main canal lingered on till about 1914. The Government began in 1867 to dispose of the canal; and the present situation is that the Hythe Corporation owns the portion from Shorncliffe to West Hythe, and the Kent River Board from Appledore to Iden Lock (junction with the Rother). The intermediate portion from West Hythe to Appledore is owned by private persons, who lease it to the Kent River Board. The National Trust owns the north bank from Warehorne to Appledore. The detached portion from Winchelsea to Cliff End is in private ownership, and has become weedy.

The canal's main function now is land drainage; and for this purpose the whole, whether in Kent or Sussex, forms part of the Kent River Board's main river system; and in particular the portions owned or rented by the Board form an important feature in Romney Marsh drainage. Boating and fishing are permitted on licence; but motor boats are barred.

Although a military work, the canal was not completed till 14 months after Bonaparte had practically abandoned the idea of invasion. Yet it probably acted as a deterrent later; and when its subsequent usefulness is considered, it can be said that few schemes of fortification have had such an all-round success.

The Isle of Oxney

Tea was taken at the Ferry Inn, Stone-in-Oxney. There is no ferry there now, and the Reading Sewer is crossed by a bridge; but the appearance of the locality and the imposing list of tolls displayed on a board were reminders that it is not such a very long time since Oxney was a real island. C.H.L.

DIALECT PIECE

By the courtesy of Miss L. Blackman, who has lent the Society her father's diary, we are enabled to give a specimen of the East Sussex dialect as it was spoken nearly 100 years ago. Mr. Herbert Blackman, who died in 1926, was a keen amateur archaeologist and observer of day-to-day happenings for much of his life. He was a friend and collaborator of Mr. Ernest Straker, author of *Wealden Iron*, the standard work on the Sussex iron industry, in which there is a photograph of him at work on the huge cinder heap in Beauport Park, where the Roman statuette, now in Hastings Museum, was found. Mr. Blackman was both an authority and a link with the Battle powder mills, for his father and grandfather had erected some of the later buildings, and he himself had contributed an article on them to *Sussex Archaeological Collections* in 1923. Miss Blackman has kindly presented his manuscript of the article to the Society. It is hoped to print further extracts from the diary at a later date.

Mr. Blackman recorded the following dialogue which occurred in 1868 between Tom Sutton, great-grandfather of the shepherd at Broomham, and Tom Simmons, grandfather of Tom Wait of Catsfield, a neighbour on whom he is paying a Sunday morning call.

'Good mornin Tom' 'Good morning Mas Simmons, how be ye dis mornin?' 'Doan know Tom, wore out like, ye know; see Tom times be altered, bain like I used to be when I used to goo mowin. Dan, see, up in de mornin soon as twas light, set down to brackfas, ave a girt slice o' fat pork, hap four inches thrue it, on a bit o' home made bread, and thum it maate; arter dat a big baison o' bread an milk to fill up de crevices, and me wife used to tie up a bit o' dinner in a cloth, an off I used to goo fur de day, an a tidy step to walk fore I got to me work. Very well I remember, one mornin when I got to de peans (farm) me ole master (Job Cook) come to me, 'See Tom', says he, 'how bout dat four acre fill o' wuts?'. says he, 'Well sur', I says, 'spose ye want um mowed', says I. 'Yes Tom', says he, 'Well', says I, 'dat'll be a rum job to do, I reckon', I says. 'Well Tom', says he, 'ye mine dooin it?' 'No sur', I says. 'Den see, Tom, what ye can doo wood it', he says. So off I goos an got thrue wood it; den goos back agin to me master for another job. 'Well Tom' says he, 'I thought you'd stop an mow all dem wuts fore ye'd come fur another job'. 'Well, Sur', I says, 'I ca'n say as I ave mowed um all'. 'Hows dat?', says he. 'Cudn't sur', I says, 'ye see, what wud de paatridges an de pheasants trailing um

about so'. 'See, Tom, have ye bin over um?', says he. 'Yus', says I. 'Den, see Tom, dat'll do!'

COMMEMORATION OF THE 897th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

COMMEMORATION LECTURE

Delivered by Sir John Dunlop, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.A., LL.B., Ph.D.

The lecturer stated that since the Middle Ages there have been three great roads in Kent—the Dover road; the Rye road, that in later days has been known as the Hastings road, and the Hythe road. The Dover road was the most important, it runs along a trace established by Roman engineers, and is still one of the great roads of our land. It appears in the very first Road Book, published in 1544. The Rye road was added in the next edition, in 1571. The Hythe road was not mentioned till 1675. But all three roads existed for many centuries before printed Guide books came onto the market. It should not be overlooked that there are more ancient routes, the most important being The Trackway, along the crest of the North Downs, which carried Neolithic and Bronze Age man from Salisbury Plain to the coast of Kent—but these routes of antiquity lie outside the present lecture which is concerned with the three great roafs of Kent linking London with the Channel Ports in historic times.

The Rye road was the first turnpike road in Kent. Commissioners was appointed to maintain the road and to levy tolls, in 1709. It is interesting to note that the important trade of taking fish from the coast to the London market was specifically exempted from toll charges, "No toll taken from horses laden with fish towards London or such horses returning", and the men employed in this trade went by the special name of "Rippieri". Forty years later a further act for Repairing and Widening the road was passed. The sort of conditions to be expected were set out in an Act in 1765 relating to the Igtham-Westerham road—"in many places very flounderous and deep and other parts thereof very narrow, incommodious and dangerous to travellers". The Turnpike Acts provided the country, in the course of a few decades, with a network of roads along which wheeled carriages could move with some speed and with reasonable certainty of arriving at their destination without disaster due to road conditions. Those improvements made possible the Mail Coach.

The Royal Mail service commenced in 1784 under the inspired direction of Thomas Hasked. Thanks to a fascinating

volume by Mr. Edmund Vale, *The Mail Coach Men*, we have the actual time table of coaches running along the roads of our theme. Every evening, at 8 p.m. a coach left London G.P.O., and every afternoon, at 4 p.m. a coach left Hastings, and they met at Sevenoaks at midnight. No longer did the mails travel in the saddle bags of a post boy, vulnerable to weather and to robbery. The mail bags were under lock and key in a sturdy coach under the protection of a guard sitting high above the road in his back seat armed with a fully charged blunderbuss, the wide scatter of whose discharge was an ample compensation for any uneasiness of aim. The timing of the journey of 41 miles from Hastings to Sevenoaks was—1st stage, Battle, 8 miles in an hour and twenty minutes—halt 10 minutes. 2nd stage, Lamberhurst, 16 miles in two hours forty minutes—halt of an hour for bags coming from Rye and Tenterden. 3rd stage, Sevenoaks, 17 miles in two hours fifty minutes—there was no stop at Tonbridge. The timing meant maintaining an average of six miles an hour which, with the time lost on slow climbs up frequent hills, meant fast work down hill and on the level and, in all conditions of darkness, rain and storm, meant very gallant work on the part of man and beast.

The amount of traffic on the Rye road is indicated in a census taken in July 1826 showing that 343 horse drawn vehicles were counted at one point, being the traffic in both directions. Bagshaw's *Gazetteer of Kent* in 1834 shows that from Sevenoaks, 3 stage coaches a week left for Hastings; and 3 for London. An omnibus and several carriers went daily to London. Though the railway reached Hastings, via Redhill and Tonbridge, in 1851, stage coaches were still on the roads. Just as sailing ships were never so lovely as when the challenge of steam was nearing victory, so the stage coach had its finest flowering when the iron road began to spread over the country. The regeneration of the Rye road in the motor age is far outside the scope of this paper.

The lecturer then traced the story of the Rye road backwards in time, into the days before the Turnpike Act of 1709, and showed a photostat copy of John Ogilby's map of 1698 which does not show more than the turning to Tunbridge Wells, though after Lord North's discovery of the medicinal value of its waters, and the royal patronage of Queen Henrietta Maria, the traffic to and from the Wells must have been a substantial addition to the ancient traffic from the seaside towns. Perhaps for this reason there was a stage coach link between London and Tonbridge in the latter part of the 17th century—but no further south on the Rye road. The

account of a journey, by a Rye attorney from Rye to Tonbridge in January 1686 shows that the 23 miles to Lamberhurst took him 5½ hours. Travelling from Lamberhurst, in company for safety, between Woodgate and Tonbridge, at about 5.30, in the moonlight, the party got separated, with very bad and uneven tracks. He dismounted and led his horse till he found better going and was able to remount. The next day he did the journey from Tonbridge to London by stage coach, 30 miles in 10 hours. The Kent and Sussex roads of the period, cut up by the rough heavy vehicles and heavy loads of the iron industry were in a terrible state.

Not only was it a question of getting heavy vehicles along the rutted lanes of the Weald, there was also the problem of passing over unbridged streams and getting stuck in the soft muddy bottoms of water splashes. So long as travellers were hardy common folk with bare legs and sandals, merchants and farmers on stocky beasts with wives or sisters sitting sideways on the broad rump of the nag holding onto the rider's leather belt, or, perhaps, lords and ladies with plenty of retainers, then the prospect of splashing through a ford would not greatly disturb them. But when clothes became more elaborate and the gentry desired to move about in wheeled vehicles, bridges had to be made over quite small streams. Ogilby's map shows bridges at New Cross, Lewisham, Bromley, Longfordbridge at the 21st milestone, Hilden, Tonbridge, Lamberhurst and then nothing till Newenden. The name Longfordbridge is particularly interesting and is the only example on the Rye road of the ford as well as the bridge being retained.

Ogilby's great folio edition of *Britannia* in 1675 describes the Rye road. "It is a well frequented road as conveying you to the readiest passage to Diep and Haur de Grace in Normandy in France, whence you have the shortest land passage to Paris; but for quality of the way is not altogether so commendable, especially beyond Tonbridge." The earliest description of the road was given by Richard Grafton in 1575, and about the same time there is recorded the gift of James Willford of Hawkhurst, described as "one of the aldermen of London and also a 'Rippieri' of Rye", of an annuity for the perpetual repair of the highway between River Hill in Kent and Northiam in Sussex. There is plenty of evidence of the importance of the Rye road in Tudor times.

It is not easy to be definite about the time that the Rye road became important. There were Roman roads to the west and east of it which, in the lecturer's opinion, were supplanted by the Rye road sometime in the tenth century. The evidence adduced were the churches, shown both on Ogilby's map and

also in the list compiled by Bishop Ernulf in 1122, which are the signposts of the Rye road. The reason for the churches was the trackway to the south. For centuries the massive bulk of the great forest of Anderedeswald had interposed a barrier between traffic north and south. The Romans had forced their two roads through the mass of trees. With their departure the forest closed in again. The Saxon penetration of the Weald was vigorous but slow. By the time of Domesday of the Monks there were only eight churches in the Kentish Weald, six of them "Denes"—pastures in the woods, usually swine pastures. The swineheards and their grazing flocks were opening up tracks in the oak and beech forest. Moreover trade was beginning to flow from Hastings and Rye. With the active Norman Duchy across the Channel, the more westerly ports were well placed to deal with traffic from Fecamp, Havre and Dieppe. The voyager landing at Hastings would seek a short road northward to London. There was only one real water barrier, the Medway, the crossing places being Tonbridge, Maidstone and Rochester. Once the Tonbridge—Sevenoaks—Bromley route became practicable it has the advantage of shortness and thus, in the lecturer's opinion, the Rye road was born somewhere about 950.

In conclusion the lecturer dealt with the question—Which route did Harold take in his march from London to Hastings. The answer is that no one knows for certain. There is no direct evidence. The six reliable sources; three Saxon and three Norman, make no comment whatsoever on the route of Harold's march. In the absence of definite and direct evidence there seems a probability that, as shown on Prof. Freeman's map, King Harold marched from London to the field of the Battle of Hastings by the Rye road.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion in which the trustworthiness of Freeman in this matter was questioned. It was claimed that the Society's excavations at Bodiam had shown that the Roman road from Rochester via Maidstone and Bodiam must have been in use down to medieval times, and therefore could have been Harold's route.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE

The Rev. R. T. Izard conducted the annual special service in the Parish Church on Sunday morning October 13th 1963. The lessons were read by Mrs. E. Harbord, a Vice-President, and Mr. B. E. Beechey, Chairman of the Society. The sermon

was preached by the Rev. A. C. A. Chetwynd-Talbot, M.A., Rector of Catsfield. Taking as his text "His truth endureth from generation to generation", the preacher began by remarking that everybody knew one date in history, 1066, even if it was the only one they knew; but not so many knew October 14th. On that day within shouting distance of the walls of this ancient church occurred one of the most momentous events of English history: an event which caused that history to change its course. Nor many generations had passed: only 30 to 35. The battle is fairly well documented; and there is the Bayeux Tapestry, probably the first strip-cartoon. From these several accounts have been written. Experts have criticised these accounts; and it is a favourable sign today that criticism is not resented. So much for October 14th 1066.

That, however, is not the whole date. The complete date includes A.D., Anno Domini, the Year of our Lord; and it is that part of it that it is my job to deal with. A publication appeared recently which commented on the very few references to Jesus Christ which appear in the old classical authors of the 1st and 2nd centuries. Of course we have the Bible; but the experts and critics have lately torn that so much to pieces, that people may well be beginning to wonder whether Jesus ever existed at all. In addition it has been argued that it does not really matter whether He existed; and that Christianity really consists of what He is supposed to have taught. Mahatma Ghandi, a non-Christian, said that the Sermon on the Mount would stand for all time, irrespective of the identity of Jesus Christ.

Do not be deceived. Jesus was as real a person; and his life history is as well known as that of William and Harold, who fought out their quarrel within sight of these walls. Even without the documentary evidence of the Bible, the historian cannot ignore the evidence in the lives of men, women and children during the past two thousand years of the power of the living Christ. No mythical figure could have influenced history so profoundly. It is for us, in these days of unbelief, to be witnesses to the continued power of the historic Christ in the world today.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on November 15th 1963

At the Chairman's request members stood in silence in memory of Mr. W. C. Allwork, a founder member, and the eight members who had died during the last Society's year.

The Chairman's report, having been circulated, was taken as read. In it, the Chairman thanked those who had organized the summer excursions, Major and Mrs. Burges for their invitation to hold a social evening at their house, the Editor of the *Transactions*, and the two anonymous members, who, between them, made good an overdraft of £51 3s. 6d. on the museum account.

The Museum premises had, most unfortunately, to be closed in March on the expiration of the Society's lease. Negociations for new premises have been very protracted, but it is now confidently anticipated that the Museum will be established in the not too distant future in the extensions to be made at Langton House. Until that time, Mrs. Harbord has generously made available the room above the Abbey gateway for storage of the cases and exhibits. The report mentioned the loss which the Society will suffer by the departure of Lieut.-Col. Darrell Hill, to live in Barbados, and thanked him for all the work he has done.

Paid-up membership at the close of the year numbered 230, including 20 junior members, a slight decrease on the previous year's figure of 238. The Hon. Treasurer, in presenting his report, said that the Society had reason to be grateful to the members who regarded 7/6 only as a minimum subscription. They had contributed £116 19s. 6d. to the funds during the last 5 years. The General Account showed a bank balance of £21 10s. 1d., which was £20 17s. 1d. less than last year; which is accounted for by the purchase of the type of the late Mr. Pyke's *Guide to Battle*. The Museum Current Account had been closed; and the Museum Removal Fund showed a balance of £288 0s. 5d. which had been placed on deposit.

At the ensuing elections, the Chairman said that the Committee recommended that the office of President should be filled by Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Lemmon, D.S.O. who was thereupon unanimously elected President for the ensuing three years. Mr. C. T. Chevallier, M.A., and Sir John Thorne, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., were then elected Vice-Presidents. The following officers were re-elected for one year: Chairman, Mr. B. E. Beechey; Vice-Chairman, Major L. C. Gates, M.B.E., M.C.; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Orger; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. W. Bishop. Of the three Committee members due to retire in rotation, Miss J. E. S. Robertson was re-elected. Major Y. A. Burges, D.L., J.P. was elected vice, Mr. W. Raper resigned, and Mr. H. Wadsworth vice, Sir John Thorne elected a Vice-President; all for a period of three years. Lieut.-Colonel J. Darrell Hill, M.C., was then elected an Honorary Life Member, *Honoris Causa*.

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