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BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: Professor G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M., C.B.E.

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BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society and the Sussex Archaeological Trust

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EDITORIAL NOTE

The 893rd Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings brought to a close another successful year for the B.&D.H.S. It was marked by an increase of membership; visits to historical places, which broke much new ground in Kent during the most marvellous summer enjoyed for many years; and finally the notable visit of the Dean of Brecon to remind members of the historical link between his Cathedral and Battle Abbey.

Two interesting lectures delivered during the year, not being on local subjects, do not appear in these pages; they are that of Sir Shane Leslie, Bart., L.L.D., M.A., the well-known wearer of the Irish kilt, on Mrs. Fitzherbert and the Prince Regent, and of Mrs. J. Why, B.A., on Roman Social History.

Recent interference with two Ancient Monuments in East Sussex, as reported in the London press, has shown the necessity for the widest publicity being given to their situation. Historic buildings and sites are scheduled by the Office of Works, under the Ancient Monuments Acts of 1913 and 1931, as being monuments, the preservation of which is of national importance, and thereafter interference with them is punishable with a fine of £100 or 3 months imprisonment or both. Ignorance is always pleaded when an Ancient Monument is interfered with; so that the more people who know where they are the better; and the more chance there is of damage being promptly reported. A complete list of Ancient Monuments in Sussex down to 1959 can be found in *S.A.C.*, vols. 85, 88, 89, 90, 91, 96, and 97, all of which are in our library. For ready reference, the following is a list of the Ancient Monuments in the Rape of Hastings, which is the area between the western boundaries of the parishes of Ticehurst, Burwash, Heathfield, Herstmonceux and Wartling, and the Kentish border.
BATTLE—The Abbey. BODIAM—The Castle. CROWHURST—The Manor House ruins (adjacent to the church). HASTINGS—Remains of the Manor House, Ore Place, Earthwork on East Hill, Old Town Hall, Castle. HEATHFIELD—Gibraltar Tower. ICKLESHAM—Martello Tower No. 28 at Rye Harbour, Town Ditch, north of New Gate, Winchelsea, Barn and cellar, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea. Camber Castle. RYE—Martello Tower No. 30 near the Winchelsea road. Austin Friars Chapel. Water Tower in churchyard. Land Gate. Peacock's School, High Street. Ypres Tower. Town walls at and east of Market Place, and on demolished house site in Wish Ward. ST. LEONARDS—Masonic Hall. Public gardens gateway. SALEHURST—Robertsbridge Abbey.

Lecture delivered by Mr. R. D. Wailes, F.S.A., M.I.Mech.E., on Friday, November 7th, 1958

" SUSSEX WINDMILLS "

Each form of activity has its patron saint, and windmills are no exception. Their patron saint is St. Victor of Marseilles, a 3rd century martyr, who was ground to death between two millstones. There are still two guilds of St. Victor in the Netherlands, one Protestant and one Catholic, which both observe his festival on the same date. The earliest record of a windmill comes from France in 1180; and the first known illustration consists of an initial letter in the Windmill Psalter of *c.*1270, now in America. Thence onwards they are a frequent figure in church brasses, windows, and memorials. One brass shows a miller, seated on a horse, carrying a sack of corn to the mill. This is based on the story that the horse was carrying the sack, and the miller walking. Seeing that the horse was tired, the miller, thinking it would relieve it, put the sack on his own shoulder, and then mounted the horse! Another interesting illustration on an old chest depicted the Last Supper, with a windmill in carved relief at the side. The ownership of this chest had been traced to Sir Francis Drake, who had captured it from the Spaniards.

The earliest form of windmill was the post mill mounted on a substructure, so that the whole mill could be turned round into the wind. To lessen the labour, the tower mill was evolved, in which only the cap needed to be turned. Timber built tower mills became known as 'Smock Mills', because they were usually painted white and looked like a waggoner's smock. A French Psalter of 1370 contains an initial letter depicting this type of mill. A picture of a 15th century mill at Stokeley Cleve showed a type very similar to the Spanish mills immortalized in *Don Quixote.*

A further development in mill operation was the fantail at right angles to the sails, which automatically turned them into the wind. The construction of the sails or sweeps was explained in detail, and illustrations of various types given. The most common were four-armed sweeps; but examples were also shown of sweeps with five, six, and eight arms. Smeaton's experimental five-armed sweeps were less satisfactory than six-armed, from lack of balance if one got out of order. Photos were shown of smock mills in the United States, one built by millwrights whose ancestors had come from England; also of a post mill which had been built last year to the lecturer's

specification. Of Sussex windmills the lecturer showed photos of Argos Hill mill at Mayfield, with automatic fantails; a mill with the fantails in the top of the roof; Hoad's Mill at Bexhill, of which the timber for the post came from Ashburnham; the six-sweep post mill at Kingston, which was blown down in 1916; the Cross-in-Hand mill (moved from Uckfield), the last working post mill in Sussex; the West Blatchington mill, built on the top of a barn; the Jack and Jill mills at Clayton when in working order; Telham mill and King's Mill, Battle, when they too were in working order; and the mills at Silverhill, Barnham, Patcham, Stonecross.

Interesting pictures were those of the mill restored as a landmark by Sir William Bird at Hannaker, and the removal of the mill from Brighton to Preston by 86 oxen, after horses had jerked in starting, and broken the chains.

Many factors had made windmills uneconomical in this country: steam (first steam mill at Blackfriars in 1784), large port mills, roller mills (first about 1877), the internal combustion engine enabling farmers to grind their own corn, restrictions during two wars, and rapid development of lorry transport. Water pumping in the Fens and Broads passed to steam, high-speed oil engines and electricity. As the areas were drained the windmills were left high and dry. There are only 15 working windmills in England today.

Lecture delivered by Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Lemmon, D.S.O., on Friday, December 12th 1958

"BATTLE POWDER"

Mr. Herbert Blackman, who died not very long ago, could remember the last days of the Battle Powder Mills. His father and grandfather had erected some of the later buildings. In *The Story of the old Gunpowder Works at Battle*, printed in the Sussex Archaeological Collections for 1923, he lamented that although less than fifty years had passed since the making of gunpowder had ceased, the traces of the industry were rapidly disappearing. The lecturer regretted that 35 more years have resulted in still more traces having disappeared; and appealed to anyone who had, or knew of, any documents concerning Battle Powder to let him know about them. His object was to keep memory alive and, if possible, stimulate a little more interest in that period of the town's history when, in the words of Daniel Defoe, "It was remarkable for making the finest gunpowder, and the best, perhaps, in Europe."

One cannot say when gunpowder was invented. We were taught at school that it was discovered by Schwartz, a German monk, in 1320; but there is evidence that it was made in England 100 years earlier, and there seems little doubt that the Chinese have used it for thousands of years. The curious thing is that the first explosive ever invented held the field almost to the threshold of the atomic age: high explosives were supreme for less than 50 years. The lecturer showed a photograph taken by himself in 1906 of five-inch Coast Defence guns still firing the powder which British artillery had been using for 560 years. Gunpowder was used for all purposes—firing guns, bursting shells, and for demolition. The composition of gunpowder is quite simple: six parts of Saltpetre, which exists in beds in the East, and can be produced synthetically anywhere without much trouble; one part of Charcoal, universally available, and one part of Sulphur, which is found free in volcanic districts, and can also be obtained from Gypsum and other substances. If intimately mixed, and fire is applied, the ingredients are transformed into a large volume of gas (Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide), and white powder (Potassium Monosulphide), the latter making the characteristic white smoke.

The first process in powder-making is the mixing of the ingredients in a powder mill consisting of a pair of millstones weighing as much as 9 tons each, mounted on an axle, and running round in a circular trough of small diameter, like a modern concrete mixer. This pulverised the ingredients and intimately mixed them at the same time. As the result was gunpowder, the mill had to be kept constantly wet to prevent an explosion. In the second process, pressing, the damped powder was spread 2 inches thick on copper plates—nothing of steel was allowed in a powder mill. These plates were stacked up and pressure applied; the product was flat cakes of powder. The third process was drying. The powder was put in trays in a drying house, which was heated by hot air flues, or hot water pipes. The fourth process was "Corning"; in which the cakes were broken up by zinc rollers to the size of marbles; after which brass rollers still further reduced the size. The result was sifted into different sizes. The fifth process was "Glazing". The powder grains were rotated in barrels with a little plumbago; this produced the characteristic polish of gunpowder. Grading and testing followed. *The English Encyclopaedia* of 1809 gives the regulations for the manufacture of gunpowder at that time, and the second one is of particular interest to us: "Only 40 pounds of powder is to be made at one time under one pair of stones, except Battle Powder, made at

Battle and elsewhere in Sussex." Not more than 40 hundredweights were to be dried at one time; however, when an explosion occurred at the Battle mills in 1798, in which 3 men were killed, 7 houses destroyed, and £5,000 worth of damage caused, there were 15 tons in the drying shed.

There were eventually 7 mills: Farthing Mill, with a 6-acre millpond, half a mile above Powdermill House; Powdermill House itself with its 12 acre pond; Pepperingeye, a mile downstream; Lower Pepperingeye, ¾ mile lower still; two mills at Crowhurst, and one at Sedlescombe. All, except the Sedlescombe mill, were on the Asten stream. The output of these 7 mills totalled 22 cwts. of powder a day. Powder making at Battle lasted almost exactly 200 years, and the height of its prosperity was during the wars with France, 1793 to 1815. As this was also the heyday of smuggling, the opportunity was not neglected, when shipping powder from Rye, of bringing smuggled brandy back in the vans.

The original grant, dated 11th November 1676, reads:— "Francis Viscount Montague, Lease for 21 years to John Hammond of Battle of four parcels of Brookland and Upland called Peperengeye Land in Battle, with permission to erect a Powder Mill, etc." The lease was renewed for 21 years in 1710, still to John Hammond. In 1750 William Gilmour is shown as the powder maker at Battle who also owned the mill at Sedlescombe. His daughter married Lester Harvey in 1756 and 8 years later, after an explosion at the Sedlescombe mill had killed two of the Gilmours, the mills were left to Harvey in whose name they remained till Curtis joined the firm, which became Curtis and Harvey. The firm moved, in 1817, to Hounslow and, until they became a part of I.C.I., were probably the largest manufacturers of sporting cartridges in the country. Mr. Charles Laurence reunited the mills at Battle, and continued with his son till 1874 when the firm was incorporated with Messrs. Pigou and Wilkes and moved to Deptford.

The closing of the mills seems to have been due to the refusal of the Duke of Cleveland to renew the lease on account of the frequent explosions caused by testing and blow-ups.

The Powdermill buildings are all marked on the Ordnance map of 1874. Some photographs of the few existing remains were shown. The millponds at Farthing Mill and Parkdale are still in water, and known as Farthing Pond and Powdermill Lake. Pepperingeye millpond, now a green meadow, is clearly defined. A pair of runner stones can be seen in a field below the bay. The corning house and the magazine (the latter in a quarry) both remain as piggeries, and the foundations of the

mill house and glazing house can be found. At Powdermill House (formerly Parkdale or "House") are a range of Watch Houses, the Charge Room, the Millwright's Shop, a sulphur refining cistern, and three sulphur-crushing stones built into the walls of modern buildings.

At Sedlescombe, the site of the grinding mill is at the so-called waterfall. In the garden at the side are two runners (grinding stones), and two more are in the orchard. They measure 6 feet 6 inches in diameter. A small contemporary building (use unknown) also stands in the garden. Mr. Blackman saw the drying house complete with chimney in 1923, the walls were still standing in 1947, but now only the foundations remain.

Lecture delivered by Mr. J. Manwaring Baines, B.Sc., F.S.A. on Friday, February 6th 1959

"HASTINGS IN 1605"

The lecturer, who is Parish Clerk of All Saints', Hastings, in his spare time, conducted his audience into dreamland, where they were introduced to his predecessor, Mr. Reginald Somers, cordwayner, who held the office in 1605. He described a walk they took together round the town, which presented a very different appearance from that generally known. There were no steps to All Saints', which faced a large pool called the "Old Slough", the water from which was released twice a day, when a horn was blown, to scour the Bourne stream, and provide drinking water for the town. An imposing timbered house stood next to the churchyard; and the tree-lined London road ran up the hill to the north. On the other side, Barley Lane led to the town pond, and the Minnis Rock. The bells had just finished a peal for the birthday of King James I; and the rector, Mr. Parker, was standing by the church door. He was a scholarly man, who had tried to get the Mayor and Jurats to start a school in the town, and had himself taught some of the children to read and write. In the Ship alehouse the bellringers, after their peal, were already drinking a health to King James in ale brewed at Master Brett's brewery. The two parish clerks joined them for a while, and then proceeded down the street to the Town Wall, which ran across the lower end of Bourne Street. It had a postern in it, and also a water gate, through which the Bourne reached the sea. The East Fort, with guns mounted, was nearby; and Mr. Somers recalled his vivid recollections of the time when it

was constantly manned as the Spanish Armada sailed up the Channel only 17 years before. " 'Twas Master Conway, that's now Mayor", said he, "that led the Hastings ships against the Dons." There was no pier to be seen, because the third one to be constructed since Tudor days had been swept away 8 years before, and ships had now to be hauled up on the beach. However, there were plenty of shipwrights in the town, and the sound of their hammers could be heard in the shipyards. At the Swan Hotel in High Street below St. Clement's Church the Dover coach was ready to start, when screams were heard. Mr. Somers explained that it was only Mother Gallop, an old offender, being whipped at eight different points round the town. The law, he said, must be upheld; there was a pillory for serious offenders in the Town Walk; and the bones of Bob Perigo, who burgled John Fissenden's inn, the Maidenhead, three years ago, could be seen, if desired, hung in chains on the outskirts of the town. There were no less than three alehouses in Courthouse Lane, the Black Spread Eagle, the Eight Bells, and the George, which was next to the courthouse itself. Alehouse keepers had no easy job: the law forbade them to allow cards, dice, quoits, scalies, bowls, or loggetts to be played on their premises. No meat could be served on a fast day, nor drink during Divine Service hours. Closing time was 9 p.m., and any stranger staying more than one night or day had to be reported to the Jurats. Naturally, no innkeeper was allowed to harbour rogues, sturdy beggars, masterless men, or suspected persons. Prices were controlled at one penny a quart for strong beer, and one halfpenny for small beer. Mayors were chosen with much ceremony apparently in a temporary house of branches in the "Winding Land". If it came to an election, no person was allowed to approach nearer than 100 feet to the Freemen who were voting. This was because frays had occurred in the past. Mr. Somers said there were now two fairs annually; the Town Fair, on St. Clement's Day, and the Rock Fair "over yonder", waving his arm to the westward, where, less than a mile away, the White Rock headland jutted out some distance into the sea. "Why was it held there?" asked his successor. "It hath been holden there", replied Mr. Somers, "from such early time that the memory of man runneth not contrary. I mind the story recounted by my father, who had it from his father, and thus for generations, that . . . once . . . long ago . . ." The dream faded, and now we shall never know the ancient folklore which accounted for the July Fair being held at White Rock.

Lecture delivered by Mr. C. T. Chevallier, M.A., on Friday, February 20th 1959

"BATTLE BEFORE THE ROMANS"

There is a contrast between the poverty of the prehistory, which heavy clays, forests, and marshes allow the eastern part of East Sussex, and the abundance conferred on West and Mid-Sussex by the light soil and lucrative flint supplies of the Downs. There are also natural factors affecting any coastal area, such as the great change of sea level, due to the retention of water in the form of icebergs and of massive glaciers, which lowered the sea to perhaps 200 feet below today's level when an ice age was in progress; and by the raising of the sea by perhaps 150 feet when, through the earth being drawn a trifle closer to the sun, the Arctic and mountain glaciers shrank even more than today. The last happened about 300,000 years ago, when Old Stone Age men lived on a shore-line 133 feet up at Slindon, for example, in West Sussex. A more regular factor was the specially combined tug of the Sun and Moon, which at the approach of peak periods, 1800 years apart, might cause disastrous flooding, especially when the sea level was rising anyhow, as an Ice Age receded. This last happened about A.D.1250—1450, when Old Winchelsea had to be abandoned. Also, the ground level of low valleys was raised by river deposits when any natural shingle bank or man-made wall arose to block an estuary. This could be from one or two feet per century, according to the completeness of the blockage.

In East Sussex we have no trace of Old Stone Age man; but the deftly chipped flints of the Middle Stone Age hunters have been found at La Rette Farm (Battle), Fairlight, and Pleyden, west of Houghton Lane. These were men of Tardenois stock, who must have walked from France before about B.C. 5,600; when the rising of the sea broke through the North Downs between Dover and Cape Grisnez. We have here no sign of New Stone Age man (B.C. 2,600—1,800); or Early Bronze Age man, for whose flint-hoe agriculture our heavy soils were unsuited. In Mid-Sussex, however, splendid remains were found around Brighton of the Battle Axe Warriors, the probable completers of Stonehenge. The lecturer here showed pictures of an amber cup and ceremonial whetstone from a chief's barrow at Hove; also of a riveted dagger and and earthenware cup, ornamented with a strangely eyebrowed

face from a woman's barrow near the Dyke; and of the Danish counterparts of these objects, some of which have no parallel outside the Mediterranean. Thus the first Danish invasion was about B.C. 1,400. At the beginning of the Late Bronze Age (about B.C. 900), two successive occupations of the Pleyden site, mentioned above, have left the post holes of a circular hut with a ring ditch around it and an animal pen close by—our first known East Sussex home-farm. Comparison with a site at Plumpton suggests former settlers, driven from Normandy by the pressure of the Urnfield Folk, bringing with them the first plough, a roughly sharpened tree bough, and making the first small "Celtic" fields marked on the Downs by the cut-an-fill lynchet banks. The Urnfield Folk, who soon followed, are thought to have brought to our shores the first Celtic speech (Gaelic, in which Q is so common), and the first Sky-father religion (Diu-pater=Jupiter). The lecturer here showed pictures of the Playden settlement and bronze articles found there, the handsome Battle Sword, the unique Battle Trumpet (long lost), the St. Leonards chopper-head (palstave) and standard mount, and the Dallington spear, all dating from B.C. 1000 to 700; and also the only two gold fragments not destroyed when the Mountfield Hoard, found in 1863, was tragically melted down. These pieces resemble a bracelet from Nidau in Switzerland, a place within the Urnfield Folk's homeland.

As to the Iron Age, the only relics are pottery and early coins; as iron, like bone, perishes in our soil. Remains found at Crowhurst and Sedlescombe suggest that iron-working was begun by the Gaelic-speaking natives before the Belgic occupation of Kent about B.C. 80; and Caesar implies as much. The Belgics were ex-German tribes of organising ability, previously settled, not in Belgium, but in Northern France. They spoke a P form of Celtic, which they imposed on most of Britain—the modern Welsh and Cornish. They also brought in the heavy iron-wheeled and coulter-fitted six-ox plough, which could till our heavy soils, and yield a surplus, turning its fortunate owner from a peasant into a Villa-Lord.

Lecture delivered by Sir Henry Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., on Friday, March 6th 1959

"HORSELESS CARRIAGES IN EAST SUSSEX, 1832 - 1909"

The lecturer began by remarking on the important part which East Sussex had played in the early history of motoring; but it was necessary to include the Sussex portion of the London-Brighton road, and also the town of Tunbridge Wells in his survey. His father was a pioneer of the motoring movement, and some of his lantern slides, over 50 years old, were shown at the lecture.

The beginning of motoring was much earlier than many people imagine—long before railways. About 1769 M. Cugnot made a steam guncarriage for the French artillery, but it was not very successful. At the end of the 18th century Richard Trevithick made and ran a steamer with wheels 10 feet in diameter on the roads, but the public was not interested. In the 1820s and 1830s a number of steam carriages were built and run on the roads, and some omnibus services were worked. A teashop in Rye has several pictures of these early types. Between 1828 and 1840 Walter Hancock made several steam carriages, including the *Era* and the *Infant* for the London and Brighton Steam Carriage Co. Regarding the latter, eleven passengers were carried in the open seats like a char-a-banc and there was a crew of three. The steersman, called the conductor, sat in front; then there was an enclosed compartment with the engine and the boiler and the engineer to look after them, and on the little platform at the back was the stoker who fed the firebox with coke from a hopper. The engine drove the back wheels by a chain, and a fan was driven to blow the fire. One great handicap was that the fuel and water needed replenishment every eight miles or so.

Mr. Alexander Gordon, who must have been the very first motor journalist, and was editor of the "Journal of Elemental Locomotion", wrote of the *Infant's* first run to Brighton on November 1st 1832:

> "The party left Blackfriars at quarter past six in the morning and got along at about nine miles an hour till Croydon, but after that the arrangements for the supply of coke and water at regular intervals broke down. Redhill was a source of anxiety as in such weather horse coaches needed six horses to get up it. But fortunately as they

were approaching Redhill the fireman came on a small quantity of London coke at the bottom of the hopper . . . when the carriage immediately improved its speed and carried us up the hill in fine style at an average speed of six or seven miles an hour."

The party, however, had to spend the night at Hazledean for lack of fuel. When fuel was obtained in Brighton and sent out, the *Infant* continued the journey at an average speed of 10 miles an hour and made a tour of the town "apparently to the surprise and satisfaction of a large concourse of persons who had by then assembled."

On another occasion Hancock was driving in the *Infant* along the cliff at Brighton with his party when "an inferior part of the mechanism called the clutch gave way and led to a fracture of a cogged wheel which gave motion to the centrifugal fire-fanner, and the carriage was brought to a dead-stand." Surprisingly enough a local engineering firm cast a new part and fitted it by midday the next day; a service which could hardly be bettered today.

Of about the same period were Mr. Gurney's steam carriages, one of which, towing an omnibus with 15 passengers, covered the 52 miles from London to Brighton in a little over five hours and a quarter (running time), and the return journey in less than five hours.

The lecturer's great uncle possessed a steam carriage in 1833, which made a noise like a threshing machine, and once had a race with a stage coach. These steam carriages weighed 3 or 4 tons, and were known to achieve a speed occasionally of as much as 30 miles an hour. The steering wheels were so heavy on the hands, that a pedal-operated friction band to hold the wheel steady was fitted to some of them. 1830 brought Hill's steam carriage, which had a two cylinder engine and a differential. Its average speed was 16 miles an hour, and it made journeys in half the time of a coach.

No new steam carriages were made between 1840 and 1857, when some were made as an experiment for private use. Then the legal restrictions began. In 1861 mechanically propelled vehicles were restricted in size and weight, and limited in speed to 10 miles an hour in the country and 5 in towns. In 1865 the red flag law was passed, and speeds were reduced to 4 and 2 miles an hour respectively. This drove steam carriages off the roads. The lack of restrictions on the continent led to a rapid development of motoring there: the internal combustion engine had been invented; and in 1895 a Panhard car won the Paris-Bordeaux and back race of 732 miles at an average speed of over 15 miles an hour. The Hon. Evelyn

Ellis bought a similar car, being the first person to import a car into this country.

By the summer of 1895 the lecturer's father had made a small car which is now in the Montague Motor Museum at Beaulieu. He was fined half a crown for allowing a locomotive to be at work on the road without a license, and another half crown for not having a man walking in front of the vehicle.

The first Horseless Carriage Exhibition in England was held at Tunbridge Wells on October 15th 1895, organized by Sir David Solomons, a distinguished engineer, who was Mayor of the town that year; and there were on show Mr. Evelyn Ellis's Panhard car, a Daimler fire engine, Sir David's own Peugeot phaeton, and a "Steam Horse" to which a carriage was attached.

Eventually, on August 14th 1896, Parliament passed the *Locomotives on Highways Act*, which came into force on November 14th 1896. By it, the speed limit was fixed at 12 miles an hour. The Motor Car Club celebrated the day, which is called "Emancipation Day", by a run from London to Brighton. About 50 cars assembled at the start in very bad weather, and the roads were thick with mud. Thirteen cars got to Brighton before the closing time of 6 p.m., and about another half dozen struggled in later.

At Easter 1898, the Automobile Club held the first organized motor tour in England. The route of 221 miles was through the whole length of Sussex from West to East and also parts of Surrey, Hampshire, and Kent. Six cars did the whole tour, and about a dozen others joined at various stages. Mr. Frank Butler, of Hedges and Butler, drove a two and nine-tenths horsepower Benz, described as "a pretty little carriage, fitted with a hood, to carry two people". The lecturer's father put the car he had made in 1895 into the tour; and Linley Sambourne, the *Punch* cartoonist, was a passenger in Mr. Instone's Daimler waggonette which carried six. It was noted that when stationary the cars had a "tremulous blanc-mangey motion".

In 1891, Mr. W. A. Jenner of High Street, Battle, began drawings for a 6 h.p. single cylinder car. Except for rough castings for the engine, and the tyres, he made the car almost entirely with the aid of a six inch self-centering lathe in his own workshop, and put it on the road in 1901. It ran very well, and once made a 90 mile non-stop trip.

In 1903, motor cars had to be registered and number plates carried. The first to be registered in Hastings was the 8 h.p. Argyll of Mr. Jules Mastin, which was numbered DY 1.

Rudyard Kipling was a very early motorist, and began with tube ignition in 1897, and when house-hunting in 1899 employed a "Victoria hooded, carriage sprung, carriage-braked, single cylinder, belt-driven, fixed ignition Embryo" which he hired complete with driver for 3½ guineas a week. In 1900 he bought a steam car, an American Locomobile, and in 1903 a 10 h.p. Lanchester. Kipling knew the Lanchester brothers, the youngest of whom, George, is (1959) still living at Itchenor and is well over 80. When Kipling's purchase of Batemans, Burwash, had been signed and settled, the vendor said to him, "How are you going to get to and from the station? It is 4 miles, and I have used up two pairs of horses on the hill." Kipling, sitting in his Lanchester, replied "I am thinking of using this sort of contraption". "Oh!" said the vendor, "those things have not come to stay".

It is difficult to appreciate now the attitude of police and public to early cars. "Earls stood up in their belted barouches", said Kipling, "and cursed us. Gipsies, grocers' carts, brewery waggons, and all the world joined in the Commination Service."

In some counties, particularly Surrey, there was police tyranny, and the Automobile Association sprang from the employment of two bicyclists at weekends to warn motorists of police traps on the Portsmouth Road. In East Sussex the police were more tolerant.

At Bexhill in 1902 the Automobile Club held a speed trial on a 1,000 yard course along the front. The fastest time was 54 m.p.h. made by a French Serpollet steam car. At this trial there was one of the new Cannstatt Daimler "Mercedes" cars. It had a honeycomb radiator, magneto ignition, pressed steel chassis, a gate change, and in fact was the prototype of the petrol car as we know it today. The days of the Horseless Carriage were over, and the Motor Car took its place.

Lecture delivered by Mr. C. T. Chevallier, M.A., on Friday, March 20th 1959

"BATTLE BEFORE THE NORMANS"

Though little is known about the coming of the English and the density of their settlement, something can reasonably be inferred from a study of place names, both here, and in the areas from which the invaders came. In the century which preceded the landing of the Jutes in Kent about 450 (and later with Frankish reinforcements), and of the Saxons in West Sussex about 475, unrecorded settlements might already

have begun on the less defensible Wealden shore. The small Roman naval base at Pevensey was probably more concerned to defend the rich Mid-Sussex farmlands, such as the colony of veterans around Ripe and Chalvington, rather than the largely dead iron workings of the Weald. In our area there is evidence of an Anglo-Jutish and Frankish settlement akin to that of Kent, and the division of inheritance between all the sons, the family home being included in the portion of the youngest.

Many analogies have been drawn between the place names of this area and some of the Eider country of Schleswig-Holstein. As both are coastal areas the likelihood of extraneous and side influences is reduced. Examples are *-wisch*, marshland converted into good grassland, as at Wattles Wish, Battle, *-heerst* or *-horst*, a spur projecting into low ground, covered with bushes (as our *-hursts*), and *-worth*, a farmhouse raised above flood level, found as Wyrth (A.D. 950) in Romney Marsh. Among others, we find there a Hollingsted, a Horsted, a Staple, and an Apeldor (a polder?), also a Ramesleah 'the wood clearing on the land edge', the name of a small port about 800 yards from the present shore at Fairlight, which with further recession of the cliff became unusable about 1030. At Boel in Eidersted, and Bolingbord hill nearby, we have a tribal name which seems to be reflected in Boulogne, the centre of a large Anglo-Saxon settlement, whence it passed to The Bowlings, Sedlescombe, Bulintun Manor east of Bexhill, and Bulwarahythe adjoining.

Hastings is said to be the tribe of Haste the Violent; but did he form his tribe here after a successful landing, or was it already in being on the Continent? Five continental place names suggest the latter: Haste and Hastenbec (Haste's stream) by Hamelin on the Weser, near the border of the Saxon and Frankish homelands. Linked with these by the River Lippe, and a Roman road, is Hastedon (Haste's hill) at St. Servais near Namur in Belgium, and Hastiere (the village of Haste's people). Boulogne was easily reached by Roman road from St. Servais, which lay in the Belgian iron-working area. This Franco-Saxon tribe, speaking a near-Flemish, might have been driven out of France; but be strong enough to found a settlement at Hastingues on the shore of the distant Garonne near Bordeaux, and might have moved voluntarily to the East Sussex district which they later dominated, with offshoots at Hastingford, Horam, and Hastingleigh, Ashford.

To turn to recorded history, the whole tribe of the Hastingers was conquered in A.D. 771 by King Offa of Mercia,

who already controlled Sussex. Doubtless to secure his allegiance, Offa, in 772, gave the Bishop of Selsey the Manor of Bexhill, which included Crowhurst and Icklesham "as far as the border of Kent". Bexhill, although in the Hastings area, had perhaps some affinity with the Saxon tradition: there is a Bexhoved near Bremerhaven, in the heart of Old Saxony. Thus Offa may have hoped to throw a girdle across Hastingset; severing the hinterland from what promised to become a shire town, Hastinga-port; but the separate tradition seems to have survived, and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle could still speak of the Danes ravaging Kent, Surrey, Hastingas, Sussex, as if Hastings were a separate shire. As an indication of the density of settlement, Domesday Book describes thoroughly the land holdings in much of East Sussex in terms of virgates (15 acres), and hides (120 acres), as they were grouped under hundreds in 1065, and also in 1086. As three hundreds met at Battle, and the Conqueror gave all land within 1½ miles to the Abbey, the situation of the principal holdings mentionel is fairly clear. Thus five virgates of the Manor of Wilmington lay within the Abbey's limit (presumably along the North Trade Road), and eight more outside were still technically part of that distant manor. This was in keeping with the policy, dating from an earlier century when Kent and Sussex were separate kingdoms, of deliberate colonisation from the large manors of mid-Sussex, carried out under the guise of taking pigs to feed on acorns in distant woods in order to check such infiltration from Kent as might be suggested by the presence in Ewhurst of 'Yorkshire Wood', a corruption of 'Eorcons Court'; Eorcon being a royal family name in Kent. In the newer settled areas, such branch manors, though recorded under their own hundreds, are only known as branches of their parent manors. Thus Burwash was not recorded by name, but as 5½ hides in Beddenham in Hawksborough Hundred. Beddenham, of course, lay in a distant hundred; and Burwash was, as regards cultivation, but little less than Crowhurst, which, in turn had nearly as much farm land as today.

The number of holdings of the house of Godwin on the one side, and of the late King Edward, his sister, (whose husband fought under William), and the Norman abbey of Fecamp, on the other, emphasise the divided loyalties of the invasion area of 1066.

VISIT TO IGHTHAM MOTE AND IGHTHAM CHURCH

on Wednesday, April 22nd 1959

IGHTHAM MOTE. This fortified medieval Kentish manor house was selected as the venue for the first outing of the year, which was held in brilliant weather, and attended by 48 members. The name Mote indicates a place where the Moot, or early council, met, and may therefore be older than the building. There is an outer courtyard, beyond which the main building stands around an inner square courtyard surrounded by a moat. Entering this courtyard by the bridge and gateway beneath the massive tower of the 15th century gatehouse, the earlier part of the house was seen opposite. It was built by Sir Thomas Cawne about 1340, and consists of the Great Hall, Solar, Crypt, and Chapel, the latter now divided into two rooms. The Great Hall measures 30 feet by 20 feet and is 37 feet 6 inches high, and has fine windows of the 14th and 15th centuries. When panelling this Hall in 1872, a small doorway was found; and, on removing the debris which blocked it, a seated female skeleton was discovered within. The N. side of the quadrangle is formed by the timbered Tudor chapel, built by Sir Richard Clement in 1520-21. The interior, with its linen-roll panelling, barrel roof, Jacobean stalls, and puplit, is a gem. The Drawing Room, situated in the 15th century gatehouse, contains much carving of the period 1611-37, when the second Sir William Selby was owner, the walls being covered with hand-painted paper arras of the reign of Charles II. The Billiard Room, also in the gatehouse, shows some 15th century ceiling timbers, and incorporates part of a much earlier, and possibly 13th century building.

IGHTHAM CHURCH. Dedicated to St. Peter. The chancel dating from about 1115 is part of an earlier, but perhaps not of the earliest, church on the site; and Norman windows, now blocked, can be seen on the outside. The present nave, aisles, and tower were erected about 1430; and two bells of that date still hang in the tower. The well-carved effigy of Sir Thomas Cawne, builder of Ightham Mote, reposes under a 14th century window made in accordance with his will. There are monuments to the Selby family, owners of the Mote under all sovereigns from Elizabeth I to Victoria, and the funeral hatchments to be seen under the roof are those of families who have owned Ightham Court, The Mote, or St. Clere.

VISIT TO WICKHAM MANOR AND PEASMARSH CHURCH

on Saturday, May 9th 1959

WICKHAM MANOR, NEAR WINCHELSEA.

The 69 members who attended the meeting were received at Wickham Manor, on a warm sunny day, by Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Freeman, who conducted them over their interesting home. Wickham is a good example of one of the earliest manor houses to be built after the practice of fortifying them had been given up. In the S. wall near the W. angle is a moulded four-centred doorway with a hood-mould, dated about 1440, which may well be the time of erection of the original building. The present house is T-shaped, the crosspiece having been built in the earlier, and the stem in the latter part of the 16th century; the chimney stack being 17th century. The fireplaces are a feature of the interior; that in the dining room being of stone with moulded jambs and a straight-sided Tudor arch in a square head. The wide fireplace in the library retains a fine oak moulded bressummer. The great fireplace in the kitchen has a width of 10 feet.

THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, PEASMARSH.

In the absence of the Rector, the church was described by Lieut.-Colonel Lemmon. It is one of the comparatively few churches in England, of Early Norman foundation, in which the original chancel arch remains, most of them having been removed in the 15th century or earlier to make way for screens and roodlofts. The arch, resembling those to be found in Saxon churches, is built of large blocks of ironstone, and must be of immense weight; so that it is not surprising that in 850 years it has been flattened from its original round shape, and become elliptical. It has unfortunately been disfigured by fixing on it two large Commandment Tablets. The present nave and half the Chancel are left of the original church erected about 1100, a blocked west window of which can be seen above the tower arch. The aisles, arcades and tower date from about 1180. Further modifications were made in the 14th century. The north door (now blocked), and the present roof date from the 15th century. Items of interest in the church include five bas-reliefs of animals—two lions on the chancel arch, another near the exterior of the priest's door, a stag near the ground on a buttress, and a bird high up on the N.E. buttress of the chancel. There is also a monk's head near the piscina of the

chapel in the south aisle. There is a large hagioscope just south of the chancel arch. In the chancel are a piscina, sedilla, lowside window, and aumbry. Some of the tiles in the nave are medieval; but the font is modern.

VISIT TO THE ROYAL PAVILION, BRIGHTON
on Wednesday, May 27th 1959

Fifty-nine members attended, and spent an hour and a half touring the building and learning its history under the direction of Mr. Byron the Chief Guide. Tea was afterwards taken at Rottingdean.

VISIT TO THE CHURCHES OF BROOKLAND, OLD ROMNEY, AND NEW ROMNEY
on Wednesday, June 10th 1959

This visit to three churches of Romney Marsh was attended by 43 members. During the itinerary the coaches ran from Brenzett to Old Romney along the Rhee Wall. Although formerly considered to be a Roman work for "inning" part of the Marsh, this is now disputed; and its exact date and purpose remain, at the moment, unsettled.

BROOKLAND CHURCH has three remarkable features: a detached steeple, the finest lead font in England, and the oldest Hundred set of scales, weights, and measures in existence.

Although no remains of a Saxon church are visible, there is documentary evidence that one may have been built in the early 11th century by the monks of St. Augustine's, Canterbury. The present building, dedicated to Saint Augustine, dates from the mid-thirteenth century, the nave and aisles being chiefly fourteenth century. The nave arcades are unsymmetrical as regards number and spacing, though the arches are of the same design. The east window is 16th century, with modern glass; but there is some 14th century painted glass in a window of the north aisle. There is a brass showing Thomas Ledys, the vicar from 1474 to 1503, in Eucharistic Vestments. The parish chest, with heavy brass mounts, is believed to have been salvaged from a Spanish Armada galleon. The lead font is described as the most important of the thirty remaining in the country. Below the rim there is cable and saw-tooth moulding, interrupted by three small castings representing The Resurrection. Below this are two

tiers of arcading, twenty arches in each, the upper tier portraying the signs of the Zodiac, and the lower the occupations of the corresponding months. To make up the number, March to October inclusive are repeated. The workmanship has been ascribed to Norman or Flemish craftsmen of the 12th century.

The Hundred Set was made by Vincents of London Bridge in 1795 for the Hundred of Alloesbridge, as ordered by Act of Parliament. It comprises measures of capacity from a bushell to a quarten (gill), of weight from a hundredweight to half a dram, and an ell measure. The detached octagonal steeple or belfry was built of re-used house timbers in the 15th century. One of the bells is unusually ancient, having been cast by Henry Jordan between 1442 and 1468.

OLD ROMNEY CHURCH, dedicated to St. Clement, stands on a tiny elevation above the general level of the Marsh. It is largely 13th century, and presents the appearance of a small church, with tower, set alongside a larger secular building. The interior, it has been remarked, looks hardly ecclesiastical at first sight; but it is, in fact, one of the best and least spoiled Georgian interiors in the country, giving an excellent idea of what a village church was like at the end of the 18th century. It has clear windows and a red tiled floor. The chancel arch, above which are the Royal Arms, is fitted with simple Chinese-taste gates. On each side of the arch is a hagioscope, and higher up an oval text. There is a Classic reredos. The belfry ladder is cut from a solid baulk of timber.

NEW ROMNEY CHURCH, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was built about 1100 on the seashore at the head of a large harbour into which drained the River Rother. For the best part of two centuries, ships could tie up to the churchyard wall; but in 1287 a succession of floods caused, Lambarde suggests, by an earthquake, changed the course of the Rother; and by the reign of Queen Elizabeth I the harbour had silted up. The church is now two miles from the sea. The Norman Church is indicated by the columns and round arches of Caen stone, and additions by pointed 13th century arches of Kentish Rag. On the columns can be seen marks of the flood. There are three chancels, each with aumbry, piscina, and triple sedilia. The late Norman tower, one of the finest in the South of England, is 100 feet high and 32 feet square. It has about 50 arches and windows, rows of fine corbels, four corner turrets, a magnificent west door, and three Norman arches. In former times the annual Cinque Port meetings, the sessions of the Jurats, and the election of the Mayor took place in the church.

VISIT TO SALTWOOD CASTLE AND ALDINGTON CHURCH

on Wednesday, June 24th 1959

SALTWOOD CASTLE, which was visited by 48 members of the Society on a very hot afternoon, is a building both of great antiquity and unique association with an important event in English history. The first fortress was established by the Romans when much of Romney marsh was sea, and the little valley of Saltwood a fortified port. This fortress is probably represented by the outer wall, one tower of which shows Roman work. Written history begins in 488 when it is recorded that "Aesc, son of Hengist, built a castle in this place"; and there are further references in charters of Egbert (833), Eadred (949), and Canute (1026). The foundations of the present buildings, which were mostly contained within the oval inner bailey, which is one of the largest in the country, and formerly protected by a moat and lake, date probably from the reign of Henry II, when Saltwood was the residence of both the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Henry de Essex, the King's Standard Bearer, was Lord Warden, but turned traitor, and the King took the castle from him and Archbishop Becket, and gave it to Henry de Broc. This was one of the causes of the quarrel between Becket and the King. On December 28th 1107 Robert Fitz Urse, Hugh de Moreville, William de Tracy, and Richard le Bret, having come over from Normandy, plotted in the Norman Hall the crime that was to shock Christendom. Next day, accompanied by soldiers from the castle, they took the Roman road to Canterbury, slew the Archbishop in his cathedral, and returned to Saltwood to spend the night before separating. King John restored the castle to the See of Canterbury; and much of the surviving structure, such as the Knights' Hall, was built in the early 13th century. Archbishop Courtenay made additions, including the magnificent gate-house towers, the supposed work of Henry Yevele, in the latter part of the 14th century. The ancient yew tree, traditionally planted by Richard II, may date from that time. It was Courtenay who imprisoned William Thorpe, an eminent Lollard, in a North Tower dungeon for 16 years. The last Archbishop to live at Saltwood was Cranmer. He conveyed the castle to Henry VIII, who granted it to Thomas Cromwell, the destroyer of Lewes Priory. Queen Elizabeth I dined at Saltwood with Sir Walter Raleigh, and shortly afterwards the

earthquake of 1580 rendered the castle uninhabitable. Later, the Deedes family converted the gatehouse into a residence; and the work of restoration was continued in great taste by Lady Conway.

ALDINGTON CHURCH, dedicated to St. Martin, where members were met by the Rector, The Rev. P. E. Goldsmid, who gave a description and pointed out its beauties, is a striking building. Its tower, one of the finest in Kent, is 16th century, though it was not completely finished off until the early years of the 20th. It replaced an earlier tower dating at least from the 12th century, of which the base survives in the S.W. part of the nave, near the porch. A blocked doorway in the N. wall of the nave is either Saxon or in the Saxon tradition, pointing to an even earlier foundation. The S. aisle is 13th century; and the W. door, though of 15th century type, was built in the reign of Henry VIII, to whose reign must also be ascribed the Holy Water stoup, which must have been one of the last constructed before the Reformation.

The choir contains features unusual in a village church: Misereres, and carved stalls with poppyhead ends. Tradition associates the great scholar Erasmus with Aldington: he is said to have performed the duties of parish priest there during one of his visits to England.

VISIT TO LULLINGSTON

on Wednesday, July 22nd 1959

The 59 members who, on this beautiful day, visited the Roman Villa and the Castle had the exceptional advantage of being guided by Colonel Meates, F.S.A., the discoverer of the Roman remains. Parties of young people were at work on further excavations near the villa, and in his arresting talk Colonel Meates made reference to matters not yet published.

The villa lay facing the river Darent some 80 yards up a slight slope. It was probably built in stone by a prosperous Romanized Belgic farmer about A.D. 100. Earlier pottery suggests his previous home, but this has not been identified. The new house was single storied; though, on account of the slope, the front rooms were so lofty that one could later be divided vertically by the insertion of a floor. About A.D. 175 the house was converted into a country residence of distinction with additions making use of springs at either end. That at the south served an elaborate bath system, with cold, tepid, and hot rooms: that at the north a small pit in the north room,

where in a recess in the north wall a superb fresco of three water nymphs has lately been pieced together. This suggests worship of the nymph of the River Darent. Two magnificent busts found in this room suggest a father of legative rank—possibly the governor of a Mediterranean province, and his son, who, holding high office in London, may have made this his country seat. The window glass and other remains suggest a high degree of comfort at this and the next stage.

From 200 to 275 the villa was, for some reason, abandoned; but was restored by a family of highly cultured Romanized Britons, who occupied it for some 125 years. They added an apsidal dining room, the focal point of which was a magnificent mosaic of the abduction of Europa by Jupiter disguised as a bull, with a couplet reflecting Juno's standpoint; and just below this a larger panel showing Bellerophon mounted on Pegasus, killing the Chimaera, with medallions personifying the four seasons in the corners.

About A.D. 300 a small pagan temple was built to the north-west of the villa, perhaps replacing the north room as a place of worship. The nymph fresco in the latter was walled over, and the stairway blocked up. The two above-mentioned busts were deposited upon the lowest two steps, which remained within the room. votive pots being sunk in the floor before them. Christianity came to the villa about 350; when the upper part of the north room was floored, and converted into a Christian chapel. There is a fresco of six persons in open-handed prayer on the west wall, and the Christian XP monogram between the east windows, where an altar may have stood, and elsewhere. Coins found suggest the use of this room as a chapel till after 400; but by 420 the whole building had been destroyed by fire. By then the pagan temple had already fallen into ruins, and on its site there was later built a Christian chapel which stood till 1412.

The party then sped a thousand years in half a mile to the Early Tudor gateway and Manor House of Lullingston Castle. If there was a castle, it was before 1494, when the present house was built by Sir John Peche. It had an outer gatehouse, moat, inner gate and drawbridge. The inner gate and the moat were later removed, and the whole space converted into a broad lawn. The outer gatehouse, still standing, is the earliest in brick, and among the finest in England. Sir John Peche left his mansion to his nephew Sir Percyval Hart, who served the last four Tudors as Knight Harbinger. The great hall has a fine triptych of him and his two sons. The last of the Harts, another Percyval, adorned the house with its beautiful west facade in the Queen Anne style. The Queen was a frequent

visitor: her bed, chest, and favourite doll are displayed; as also a rare fireside figure of a Jacobean maid sweeping the hearth. From the Harts, the house passed to the Hart-Dykes, a family who have further adorned their beautiful home. The church across the lawn is of Norman origin, but rebuilt in the Decorated Period of the 14th century, with fine family tombs, a Tudor rood screen, and a Queen Anne moulded ceiling.

We left grateful for this glimpse, both of this beautiful home, renewing, in more modern setting, the grace of the successive homes within the Roman villa; and of the church by the Manor House, which had succeeded the chapel on the site of the pagan temple, that had existed alongside the Christian Upper Room. That room is the oldest proved building for Christian worship in our country. Beneath it lay the remnants of the Roman and British nature cults; and, hard by, the pavements depicting the Olympic religion of Greece and Rome.

C. T. CHEVALLIER.

VISIT TO EWHURST

on Wednesday, September 9th 1959

The members, 40 in number, were met at St. James' Church by the Rector, The Rev. K. A. Pearson, who gave an interesting and informative description. The oldest parts of the building are the south arcade with its square piers, the base of the tower, and the font, which are all of the 12th century. The south aisle retains its 12th century size, which is less than half the breadth of the north aisle; but the outer wall, like all the rest of the church except the modern vestry, dates from the 14th century.

Members were then conducted by Mr. Pearson to see Mr. Percy Carter's fine set of oast houses across the road; which were in full operation roasting the hop crop. These oasts, though modernized in some respects, are of the traditional design, of which the number operational in Sussex has greatly diminished.

The last visit was made to Preachers, where members were welcomed and shown round by Mrs. Marriott. The house, so named from its association with Wesley, dates from about 1500, the chimney having been built about 100 years later. The front has an overhang carried on curved braces, and moulded strip buttresses. Inside, a Hall, Solar, and Kitchen wing can be distinguished; but the Hall appears to have been always of two stories.

THE TWO STANDARD HILLS

Close to the main road from Battle to Lewes, in the parish of Ninfield, lies Standard Hill. Though this has been suggested, its association with The Battle is unlikely, as it is not on the route of either army to the battlefield. An enquiry during the year from the Geographical Department of Trinity College, Dublin, led to the discovery of an interesting fact, which may not be generally known, that there is another hill, undoubtedly associated with The Battle, which was formerly known as Standard Hill. The enquiry was prompted by a passage in Daniel Defoe's *Journey through Britain*, where he states that near Battle there was a hill called Beacon Hill, which had formerly been known as Standard Hill. On Norden's map of 1625 the hill can be found, marked both *Balteslow Beacon* and *Standard Hill*, and is identifiable as Point 462 on the road from Battle to Hastings; which is popularly called today "Blackhorse Hill" after the nearby inn, and where there is an artificial mound and a water tower. On Budgen's map of 1724 this same point is marked *Hedgeland*, an obvious corruption of *Hechelande*, the place where, according to the *Chronicle of Battel Abbey*, the Norman army put on its armour and William made a speech. Although it has now been recognised that Point 462 is *Hechelande*, the knowledge that it was once called *Standard Hill* confirms that it is, in fact, the place where the Norman army prepared for battle; and it would, therefore, be very suitable if the name, commemorative of the event, which this historic spot once bore could be restored.

What then is the reason for the existence of another Standard Hill near Ninfield? In the absence of definite evidence, a possible origin of the name might be sought in the Baron's War, and the stormy passage of Henry III's army through the Battle district in 1264. The story is worth telling, if only for the picture it gives of those rugged times. Having captured Tonbridge, the King proceeded towards the coast. Near Goudhurst, Master Thomas, his cook, going incautiously in advance of the army (no doubt scrounging for his master's table), was killed by a countryman. When Henry heard of it he caused some rebel recruits, who were found assembling at Flimwell, to be surrounded and all beheaded. At Robertsbridge Abbey he was hospitably entertained; but this did not deter him from threatening the monks with death if they did not pay Prince Edward 500 marks. At Battle Abbey, the brethren headed by Abbot Reginald went forth in solemn procession to meet him; but the King assumed a wrathful countenance and demanded 100 marks, to which Prince

Edward, the future "Hammer of the Scots", added his own quota of 40. The reason for this extortion savoured of the pot's criticism of the kettle—the Abbot's men, said Henry, had slain certain persons at Flimwell. That was, in fact, true; but the Abbot had not instigated it. The king then proceeded to Winchelsea, where, according to the monkish chronicler, he and his whole army remained some days revelling in the abundance of wine they found there, while the whole country was exposed to depredation and rapine. It was Old Winchelsea which the King and Prince Edward visited. Fourteen years before, 300 houses and several churches had been 'drowned', and 23 years later the sea swept over the remainder of the town. Prince Edward was destined to plan the New Winchelsea on Higham Hill.

Having returned to Battle Abbey, the King heard there of the advance of the Barons' army under Simon de Montfort, and set out in the direction of Lewes to meet it. He lodged one night at Herstmonceux, where his army amused themselves by hunting and destroying the park. While so engaged, "a certain nobleman was killed by the chance blow of an arrow, which struck him in the throat".

The above narrative contains interesting information about local roads in the mid-thirteenth century: the Tonbridge-Goudhurst-Flimwell-Robertsbridge-Battle road as well as the Battle-Herstmonceux road were good enough for an army of that date to march along; and it is on the latter that we find Standard Hill. It may well be that the name is a memento of 1264.

C. H. LEMMON.

FINDS AND FIELDWORK

In July 1959 the ploughing of a field by Messrs. Guiness & Co. turned up, 50 yards north of Bodiam station, some pieces of Roman tile 2 to 2½ inches thick, with bosses on them 1 inch high and 2¾ inches in diameter. One fragment was stamped with the CL BR seal as found at Pevensey (*S.A.C.* VI. 112). CL BR stands for Classis Britannica—British Fleet. The complete tiles must have been very large. There were also several pieces of a large buff-coloured native pot, of diameter 17½ inches and thickness ⅞ inch. This site is referred to as Site A; and its National Grid Reference is 51/783251. Our member, Colonel Darrell Hill, thinking that more discoveries might be made on the slightly elevated piece of ground 200 yards farther north had two short trial trenches dug there in September. There was little time, as hops had to be planted, and wet weather was setting in. However, at a depth of about 3½ feet a mass of tile fragments of the same type, and also

some roof *Tegulae* were found. More important finds were a bronze figurine, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, possibly of Mercury; a fragment of a square glass flask, embossed with the letters M and R (or P), dated by Dr. Harden of The London Museum at A.D. 50 to 150; and a pottery sherd scratched ADIS. Colonel Hill has placed the two latter finds in our Museum. This site is referred to as site B.

There was much iron cinder and sherds of native pottery on both sites, the latter grey, black, buff, and reddish brown, but very little Samian ware. The only interesting piece of Samian (from site A) was a worn fragment 3 by 2 inches of a handsome bowl of rim diameter $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches with a frieze of dancing girls. By permission of Messrs. Guiness & Co., who have been most co-operative and helpful, a more detailed examination of site B will be made at Easter 1960, when it is hoped to settle the question whether there was a building there, or whether the tiles etc. were dumped there to repair a causeway or wharf at the place where the Roman road crossed the Brede. As the site is 22 feet below the level of the 14th century dock at Bodiam Castle, and only 3 feet above the present mean sea level, any building foundations found would provide valuable evidence of the sea level in Roman times.

A LINK WITH JULIUS CAESAR

In 1857, a gold coin, evidently copied from the Stater of Philip of Macedon, was found in Old Hastings. It has only recently been identified by an expert as a very rare coin of Commius. Mr. Manwaring Baines, Curator of Hastings Museum, had some electrotypes made, and kindly presented a pair to our Society. Julius Caesar introduces us to Commius Atrebas in his *Gallic War*. Having conquered the Atrebatians, a Belgic tribe, Caesar made Commius their king; and later sent him over the Channel to persuade the British tribes to accept Roman rule. The Britons did not take kindly to this idea, imprisoned Commius, and only liberated him again to intercede with Caesar at his invasion in B.C. 55. Peace terms were arranged; but almost at once the Britons attacked the Romans again. Commius assisted Caesar in the battle with 30 horsemen, and also took part in his second invasion the following year. However, about three years later he joined Vercingetorix in his struggle against the Romans at Alesia. Escaping to Britain about B.C. 50, he set up an Atrebatian kingdom in Hampshire, which was later extended to include Berks, Surrey, Sussex, and parts of Wilts and Kent. In the closing years before Christ, his sons ruled this area between them, Hastings probably being in the domain of Tincommius.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 893rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

COMMEMORATION LECTURE

delivered by The Very Reverend W. Edward Jones, M.A., Dean of Brecon, on Friday, October 16th 1959

BATTLE IN BRECON

The lecturer began by quoting the passage in the *Chronicle of Battel Abbey* which establishes the link between Brecon and Battle:—"At the same time Bernard de Newmarch, one of the King's barons and a person of eminence, at the earnest solicitation of a monk of Battel, named Roger, who had for some time resided with him, freely gave to the Abbey of S. Martin a certain possession in Wales, called Old Town, and the Church of S. John the Evangelist, contiguous to it, and lying beyond the fortification of his castle of Brecknock, with all its appurtenances. Brother Roger (with his coadjutor Walter, another monk of Battel, and a man of great wisdom) was enabled . . . by great perseverance and labour to restore the church from its foundations. He also erected buildings for residence, and in the meantime obtained from the neighbours, partly by solicitation, partly by purchase, some property in land and tithes. And thus faithful to his charge, he laboured diligently to render to the mother church, with a large increase, the talent of the small possession which had been committed to him. In process of time Agnes, wife of Bernard previously mentioned, . . . granted them a certain grange, lying out of Wales in England, called *Berintona*, as a free possession for ever. The possessions of the church were also gradually increased by Bernard's own benefactions of lands, mills, churches, and tithes; and the place was annexed of right to the abbey of Battel, both by the confirmation of Bernard and by royal authority. Walter being now made Prior by the abbot and convent of S. Martin, it was determined that a few monks from the Abbey should reside there as servants of God, for the regular celebration of divine offices; and that in token of dependance they should pay twenty shillings of their annual income to the Abbey of Battel."

The establishment of the cell at Brecon occurred during the abbacy of Gausbert between 1076 and 1095, from which the oldest part of the church dates.

Brecon is a pleasant place situated at the confluence of the swift river Honddu, and the gentler Usk, which is the reason for its Welsh name Aberhonddu. The church stands on a tongue of land between the two rivers with the Priory buildings close to it on the south and west. A few ruins of Bernard de Newmarch's castle remain on a hill close by. In 1248 Reginald became Prior of Brecon, and in 1261 was elected Abbot of Battel; but during the abbacy of Robert de Bello, John Jose, Prior of Brecon, rebelled against the right of Battel Abbey to make a triennial visitation. De Bello procured a bull from Pope Innocent VI, dated 9th June 1355, enjoining obedience.

At the Reformation the Priory Church became the parish church of Brecon; but the Priory buildings passed into lay possession, in which they remained until 1926, when a pious layman, Mr. Wilfred de Winton, purchased them, and presented them to the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon. They have now been reconstituted to make a Deanery, a Canonry, Chapter House, Choir School, and Vestries. In the 19th century the church had become extremely dilapidated, and was partly unroofed. It was completely restored under the direction of Sir Gilbert Scott towards the end of the century; and after the disestablishment of the church in Wales, when the diocese of St. Davids was divided, it became the cathedral church of the new Diocese of Swansea and Brecon. The disestablishment also had the effect of depriving the church at Brecon of its land at Berington in Herefordshire, which it had held for over 800 years, and other properties given to the Priory in the days of the monks. Close to Brecon is the hamlet of Battle, with a small church of which the Dean of Brecon is Rector; and within the Cathedral is the "Battle Chapel", where inhabitants of Battle formerly had right of burial. It has been suggested that as Battle is situated between a British camp and a Roman camp, its name may record a battle between Romans and Britons; or, alternatively, between Normans under Bernard de Newmarch, and Welsh under Rhys ap Tudor. Another, and possible, reason is that the Battle Abbey monks established a small chapel there and nostalgically named the place after their old home in Sussex.

The lecturer showed several slides illustrating the fine architecture of Brecon Cathedral, as well as of the Priory buildings in which he and his family live.

NOTE:—Reginald, Prior of Brecon, had the doubtful honour three years after becoming Abbot of Battle, of receiving King Henry III, as recounted in the previous article. —ED.

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

The Very Reverend W. Edward Jones, Dean of Brecon, conducted the annual special service in the parish church on Sunday evening October 18th 1958. The lessons were read by Mrs. E. Harbord, a Vice-President, and Mr. A. E. Marson, Chairman of the Society.

Before beginning his sermon, the Dean of Brecon said it was an honour and a privilege to preach at the commemoration of the best remembered date in English history, close to the spot where King Harold died fighting for freedom, where he was honoured by the erection of an abbey, and where the course of English history was changed, under God, for the better. Were he not preaching at Battle, Sussex, he would, that evening, have been preaching at another Battle church, dedicated to St. Cynog, on a hillside surprisingly like Senlac; at the spot where Rhys ap Tudor fell in battle against the Norman Bernard de Newmarch.

The Dean took as his text St. Luke's preface to his Gospel. It was, he said, St. Luke's Day. St. Luke was not only "The Beloved Physician": he was also a historian, whose work as author of the Gospel and also of the Acts of the Apostles was invaluable. He shews the marks of a historian in declaring that he has traced the course of things accurately from the beginning, by consulting books already written, and by taking statements from eye-witnesses. Indeed St. Luke might well be the Patron Saint of all historians as well as doctors. We thank God for his life and work.

Since the sixth century it has been believed that St. Luke was also an artist. He certainly painted pictures in words which have been the inspiration of the greatest pictures in the history of painting.

Through St. Luke we have been able to learn so much of the working of God in history. Today, looking back to 1066, we may see how the hand of God worked. The people of that day doubtless looked forward to the future with apprehension. Today, with our knowledge of the guiding hand of God in history, we can confidently look forward to the future of mankind.

NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on November 13th 1959

The Chairman reported a most successful year, with an increase of membership from 253 to 278. In March 1959 the lease of the Museum had been renewed for four years, and during the Society's year 5,400 people had paid for admission. The exceptionally fine summer, which had made the Society's outings so successful, had had an adverse effect on an indoor attraction like the museum.

The balance of the general fund had dropped from £51—13—5 to £34—4—4. The Committee was unwilling to suggest that the subscription of 7/6 should be raised; but proposed an amendment to the Rules that "The minimum subscription shall be 7/6". The proposal was carried unanimously. The overdraft on the Museum Account had now been reduced to £25—19—1.

It was unanimously agreed that Professor G. M. Trevelyan be invited to continue as President. Miss Hope Muntz and Mr. D'Elboux, neither of whom now live near Battle, were elected Honorary Members for life (*Honoris causa*). Mr. A. E. Marson and Mr. L. H. Pyke were elected and Mrs. E. Harbord and Dean A. T. A. Naylor were re-elected Vice-Presidents. The following were elected or re-elected as Officers: — Chairman: Mr. C. T. Chevallier, vice: Mr. Marson, who did not seek re-election; Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. R. Clough; Honorary Secretary: Major L. C. Gates; Honorary Treasurer: Mr. R. W. Bishop. The three members of the Committee due to retire in rotation, Sir James Doak, Miss R. Chiverton, and Major C. D. Grant, were re-elected for three years until 1962. Miss J. E. S. Robertson was elected vice Mr. L. H. Pyke, and Mr. T. J. S. Homer vice Mr. C. T. Chevallier.

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