

Programme

Wednesday 26th March 2003

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Let the committee know what your priorities are for Worlds End. The full results of the Residents Survey will be discussed.
Venue: Sports Pavilion, Janes Lane. Starts 8.00 pm.

Wednesday 21st May 2003

Bedelands Then and Now

Illustrated talk by Jen Fernee of the Friends of Bedelands Farm Nature Reserve. An opportunity to learn more about the well known nature reserve right on our doorstep.

Venue: Sports Pavilion, Janes Lane. Starts 8.00 pm
Entrance 50 pence

Saturday 26th July 2003

Summer Visit

To Latchetts at Danehill. This garden is opened once a year by the owners, Mr and Mrs Hardy who are keen expert gardeners, in support of the Gardeners' Benevolent Fund.

Entrance £3.00 - goes to the charity. 1.30 pm
Cream Tea £2.50

Wednesday 22nd October 2003

Old Sussex

Don Weller will give us a tour of Sussex in old postcards taken from his extensive collection.

Venue:
Sports Pavilion, Janes Lane
Starts 8.00pm
Entrance: 50 pence

Membership News

In our Autumn 2002 newsletter, we reported that committee member Fred Jones and George Warne, husband of founding member Heather Warne, had been unwell. It is now with much regret that we have to record their subsequent deaths.

Fred passed away on the 23rd November and George two weeks later on the 6th December. George's passing was tragic as he had planned for the wedding of his daughter Sarah the following week. The Association was represented at both of their funerals. We send our condolences to Heather, Eileen and their families.

Find your Ancestors Public meeting on Genealogy

This October meeting was very well attended, with lots of new faces coming to listen to Martin Hayes from the West Sussex Records Office give a most interesting talk on how to trace one's ancestry.

Martin explained that he is based at Worthing Library which is now the centre for public access to the whole country's population records. These records are not the originals, of course, which are held securely elsewhere but mainly micro-filmed copies.



In the course of his work, Martin had come across some old photos of what appeared to be a works outing by horse drawn charabanc.

Some identification was given of the people portrayed and of the location. Using this information Martin was able to trace back through old local town and street directories, parish and cemetery records and even old newspapers, to gain an insight into the history of the family shown in the photograph.

Much to our surprise, there was a connection to Burgess Hill as the man in the old photograph was related to the Upton family, who come from this area. It turned out this man was a gardener working at a market garden in Ham Bridge, then a small village just outside Worthing. He had several sons and then a daughter but sadly he died shortly after her birth from a typhoid epidemic then affecting the area.



Part of the audience at the genealogy talk.

Using a special projector linked to a laptop computer, Martin was able to show images of the various documents and records he used in this piece of research, the same research that anybody who wants to trace their family tree will need to carry out. The Internet can be used as well, there being various websites (the Mormons have an extensive database and the very useful Cindy's List) all holding specific information. Martin gave much useful advice, one being to check and double check old records especially old street directories, some of which were not particularly accurate.

Ugly Lineside Fencing

Anybody travelling up and down Valebridge Road and Rocky Lane or on the train to Haywards Heath, cannot have failed to notice the erection of the high palisade fencing along the line.



We wrote to Railtrack questioning the need for this inner city style security fencing in a rural area, and received a reply from their Community Affairs office at Waterloo.

The fence has been put up in response to five recent suicides on the line between Haywards Heath and Wivelsfield stations. We fail to see how this will deter would-be trespassers as there is an open public foot crossing in the locality, and one only has to walk to the end of the high fence to where it is lower. We pointed out that an incident had already occurred at Haywards Heath tunnel causing much service disruption, showing what a waste of money this fence has been.

However, as the fence is now here to stay would they consider painting it a suitable shade of green? Railtrack said that it is not their policy to paint fencing. So, we have to live with this ugliness until nature's undergrowth takes over!

More fencing was erected early in February and crews have been spotted installing tall stanchions in between the newly high fenced areas, so it seems that the entire lineside fencing is going to be renewed. All may not be lost, as green coloured chain link mesh fencing is being put up, which is much better in appearance than the stark galvanised palisade style.

Carols at Worlds End

As happens each Christmas, WERA joined with the NSPCC on 23rd December to sing carols in aid of their funds. This year we went via Leylands Road, Gladstone Road, Gordon Road to the Stirling Court Road area and ended up with two carols back in the Watermill pub, where we enjoyed sherry and mince pies courtesy of the proprietors, Rene and Sara.

The carollers were Sue Sindall, Jean Wallis, Carol and Allan Thompson, Marilyn Hampton, Pat Ticehurst, Sheila Hendry, Jill Larrard and Ronald Rankin. Thanks to them and the public who supported us so generously - we raised £80 for NSPCC funds.