

Programme

Wednesday 23rd October 'How to find your ancestors'

An introduction to family and local history research. Martin Hayes from the West Sussex Record Office will describe how to find out information from the past, starting with just a name. He will show how anyone can use local resources to explore family and local history.

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

Monday 23rd December Carol Singing

Join a festive tour of Worlds End in aid of the NSPCC. Meet at the Watermill pub at 7.00pm.

Wednesday 26th March 2003
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Opportunity to let the committee know what your priorities are for Worlds End. The full results of the Residents Survey will be presented.

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.

August 2003
(date to be announced)

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).
Cream Tea £2.50

Another successful History Talk by Mark Dudeney and Eileen Hallett

In May, the well known local history presenters returned for their third talk to WERA members and friends. Mark took us on a walk up the road to Ansty, starting at the edge of town, and using many old photographs he was able to show us that hidden behind the hedgerows there still exist some of the original big houses which had a variety of attractions most of the large

houses we were shown still exist, including one behind the fork of the junction of Cuckfield Road and Isaacs Lane, which the owner turned into a recreational centre such as boating lakes and animal attractions etc which people travelled miles to see; by train and then marching behind bands from the station out to the entertainment.

Those were the days before the Victoria Pleasure Gardens and they did quite well, until Eileen's grandfather, Edwin Street, opened the Victoria Pleasure Gardens and hastened their demise.

There is not enough room here to cover the whole story but the audience were surprised by the amount of development that went on in a relatively short stretch of road up to Ansty, and they were particularly fascinated to know that lots of it is still visible today. It is, if you drive along at 20 mph! Best way to learn more, is to come to the next talk. Our thanks to Mark and Eileen for such an entertaining and interesting talk, made more so by Eileen's family connections with the area through the Upton family.

Summer Outing this year was to the Priest House at West Hoathly. The guardian of this delightful old property, situated in the conservation area of the village, explained that it was originally built to house staff from the Priory of Lewes in response to local complaints that the Priory was not looking after its lands and farm tenants.

The house has had several owners each of which has added to the structure such as making a second floor. The upstairs sleeping arrangements required a horizontal sheet over the bed to catch spiders, beetles and other creepy crawlies which fall from the underside of the roof - there being no ceiling. The guardian of the house sleeps in the other half of the house under just such a sheet and no central heating. The house size restricts the number of visitors and our private visit was a tranquil and worthwhile visit. Our thanks to **Fred Jones** for coming up with the idea, and for organising the visit.

Janes Lane Car Park

Neither County nor District accepts ownership of this car park, although County have agreed to maintain it. We have raised the problem of cars being parked there with 'For Sale' notices on them. This is nothing to do with The Garage but is some other person who has decided to take up spaces used by playgroup mothers and other local users. The street will soon be subject to an order that will prohibit street sales in Janes Lane which will be enforced.

Station Garden Plot

The image below was shot on a pleasant day but Heather Warne and Charles Bird (seen below) work through the year to maintain and develop the plot with others.



Photo Gerry Canning

Work carried out has included tree felling not just 'light forking'! All gardeners know how hard the work is, and in the case of our volunteers they have their own gardens to look after as well, so our thanks to them all.

Wivelsfield Station

Chairman Gerry Canning's persistence with the rail company has borne fruit. Time tables are now provided on both platforms, a community noticeboard has been placed on the wall in the booking hall and graffiti removed from various walls and litter removed from around the station.

End of the World

Death, Dishonour or Dash

In Japan, all works or repairs have a large public notice erected stating what the company is doing and why, which managers by name are responsible, the starting and finishing dates and the Chief Executive signs the Notice. Very, very few projects whatever the size or complications fail to start or finish on time, for the resulting loss of face to senior management in not doing what they have publicly stated they would do would be unbearable. How many heads would roll, voluntarily or otherwise, if this code was followed in Sussex?

Take, for example, the approved pavement works under the railway bridge on Leylands Road: this was scheduled for the Easter School holidays of 2001 but the 2002 Summer holiday has come and gone, and silence. Maybe this October? An email to County Highways politely asking when? If it gets to the top of the in-tray maybe someone will reply.

In Nigeria, some years ago, the customary system of paying 'dash' to the clerk to put your case at the top of the pile, and then a larger sum to the decision maker worked, things happened!

Subscriptions were due for 2002/3 at the AGM, so any who are overdue contact Mike Mundy **246899** - and pay up! Thank you.