



Coldean

Community & Church Magazine

Summer 2021



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Letter from the Vicarage July 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I wish you were here! The sun is shining; the waves are gently lapping on the sand. I have a martini in hand, and I am reading a good thriller! No mushy romances for me thank you!

Actually... I have just let you into the bubble of my daydream and it is good for all of us to daydream sometimes if we do not allow it to take control of our real lives because if that were to happen, we would miss the gems that surround us, the little windows of light and colour which allow us to see all that we are blessed with.

We have struggled over the last 16 months or so and it is obvious that there is still a way to go but amidst those darker days we have been enriched by the change in the dynamics of community; we work together, laugh together and yes sometimes we must cry together but we are bound together and find strength in each other.

I have met so many wonderful people during this time, I have shared time and life experiences and my vision of God has been clearer than ever before and because of knowing his love I can have hope and so can you. You my friends, have helped to mould me a little more and I like you have been changed forever by our recent experiences.

This summer may not end up being the summer that we have all dreamt of it may not even come close, whatever happens remember this reality may suck sometimes but it is within reality that we find our true depth and perseverance. And we will grow even when the skies appear dull and overcast.

We are community, we are strong, and we are loved by God we just must keep remembering this and we will get through whatever this world has to throw at us.

I leave you with some words given to us by St Theresa of Avila:

"May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love. It is there for every one of us."

Go well my friends and keep being the wonderful people you are.

Love and prayers always

Revd. Betsy

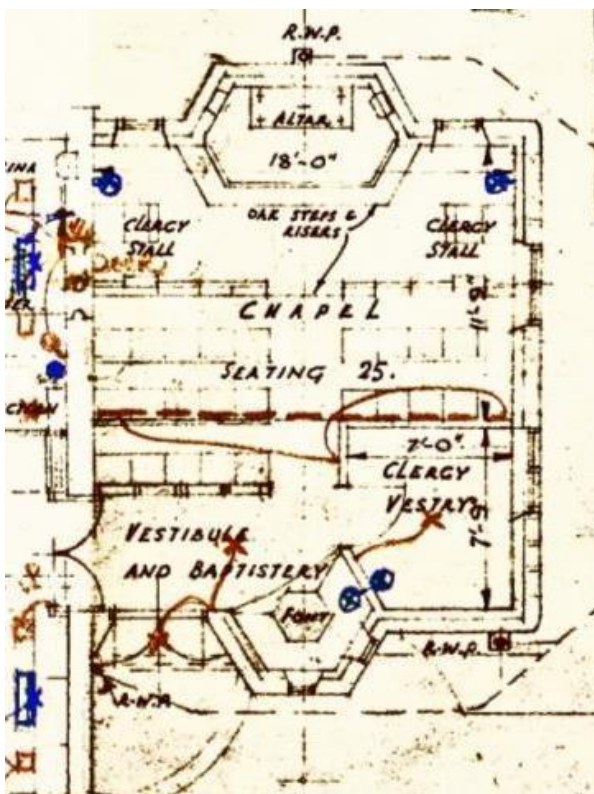
John Leopold Denman the Architect of St Mary Magdalen Church

David Robson formerly a Professor of Architecture at Brighton University is writing a book about the architect John L. Denman who drew up the plans to convert the farm barn at Coldean into a church.

David Robson contacted the church to see if there was any information on the design and building of the font for the church.

Looking at the 1954 plans for the church there is no drawing for the construction of the font, but a hexagonal baptistery is shown with a hexagonal font in the centre by the entrance to the Lady Chapel. This suggests that the Architect had plans for a six sided font, but no drawings for the font have survived.

Enquiries with people who were living in Coldean when the church first opened provided no answers.

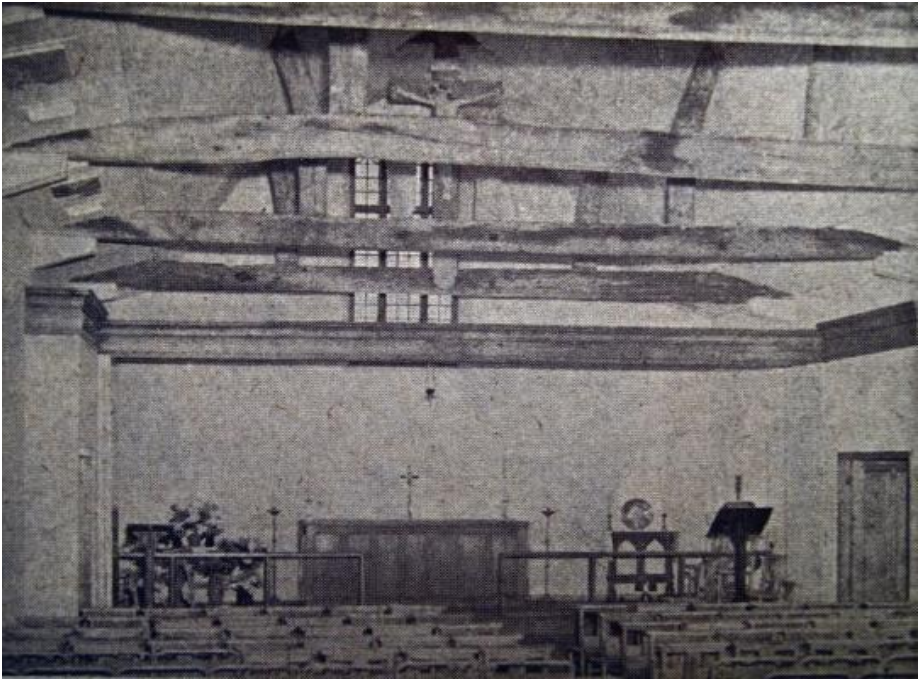


The main altar came from St Michael in Brighton and was enlarged for use at Coldean by adding a new section at each end. The Reredos behind the altar came from St. Anne's Church in Eastbourne.

Research on St Anne Church, Upperton Gardens in Eastbourne says that some artefacts went to the new church of St Anne in East Wittering including a font described as C19 and octagonal with panelled sides.

A report on the dedication of the church which took place on 20 December 1955 appeared in the Brighton and Hove Herald.

“A happy combination of ancient and modern” aptly describes the new church of St. Mary Magdalen at Coldean, which was dedicated by the Bishop of Lewes (the Rt. Rev. Geoffrey H. Warde) on Tuesday evening (20th December 1955).



St Mary Magdalen Church in December 1955

The new church was a barn on the former Cold Dean Farm, originally part of the Stanmer Estate and still has the original flint. The interior is more modern, with overhead electric heaters and soft “concealed” lighting. Wide windows take the place of the double doors on either side of the erstwhile derelict barn, but the architect, Mr John L. Denman, retained the old beams. He designed the extensions, to accommodate a side chapel, baptistery and vestries, which were built in matching flint’ work.

Every available space in the new Church was ingeniously utilised. Sliding screens enabled the sanctuary to be shut off so that the rest of the building could be used as a church hall. On each side of a stage at the west end is a small vestry, suitable also for use as a dressing room.

Children's Farthings Paid for Furniture

The cost of the furniture in the tiny chapel was purchased from a gift of £205 given in farthings by the Sunday School children of the diocese. An interesting feature is the wooden font; it has wheels, so that it can be moved into the church on Sundays. It was purchased by contributions from the Coldean Primary School, and by collections from baptisms and a children's envelope scheme.

The carving above the sanctuary in the church, mounted on one of the six great beams of the former barn, comprises a wooden depiction of Christ, St. Mary and St. John. It was designed by the distinguished Brighton artist Mr Charles Knight and was carved by Mr J. Cribb, of Ditchling.

The plated altar cross and altar candlesticks were made by a Coldean craftsman, Mr Charles W. Yeates, who made a gift of the cross.



Information from David Robson about John Denman and his father who were both engaged by the Diocese of Chichester and between them created a dozen new churches and carried out repairs and alteration to a further 50. John Denman was a devout Christian and he seems to have ascribed a great deal of value to the ritual of baptism. Many of his church designs included a baptistery in which he installed specially designed fonts. For example: the churches in Eridge, Shirley (St. George), East Dean (Saints Simon and Jude) and Whitehawk (St. Cuthman). These baptisteries were usually quite small, suggesting an intimate ceremony involving only the priest and the parents. The fonts were of carved stone and were made invariably by the artist Joseph Cribb of Ditchling. (Incidentally, the carved tablet on the outer wall of the baptistery at St. Mary Magdalen Coldean is almost certainly by Cribb).

The fact that the altar could be closed off by a folding screen is interesting. Denman used the same device for St. Luke's Chyngton (1958).

Editor's Note. Originally the church was built with a stage in front of where the main door is today. In this way the chairs could be reversed to use the church as a hall to put on plays and so on.

John L. Denman in 1928 designed the stone pylons on the A23 marking the extended boundary of the Borough which was then called "Greater Brighton". The photograph below was taken in the 1930s.



He also worked on the restoration of the tower and spire of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Southwick which was severely damaged by a bomb in World War 2. The tower had to be taken down and completely rebuilt.

Ron Mephram Remembers John L Denman

John L Denman was the Architect who supervised the conversion of the barn at Coldean into the church of St Mary Magdalen.

Ron worked for a building company who built a number of his projects, most notably the alteration and building of churches.

John Denman was very specific as to what materials were to be used and if he saw that the wrong ones were used they had to be removed and replaced. He would make his own airbricks and made sure roof tiles matched the existing ones which had to be made to his specification.

On one occasion he looked at a church spire and then although he was getting on in years he climbed to the top to check the work. When he saw that the wrong tiles were being used, he simply said, "OUT" and out they came to be replaced by the correct tiles.

Navvies and Bowler Hats

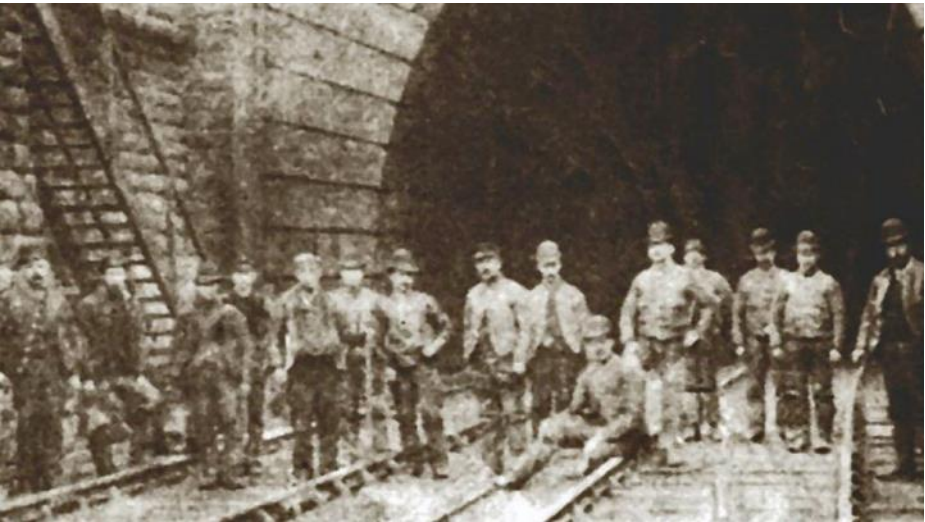
The previous edition of the magazine included a map showing the route for a canal from Brighton to Lewes passing under the Downs at Bevendean. If it had been built the men doing the work would have been Navvies.



Bowler Hat

Navvies did the physical work to construct canals and railways. The word "navvy" was a shortened version of "navigator" as they had to navigate their route from place to place. With canals the aim was to keep a level route avoiding the need for locks to raise or lower the canal.

The "Golden Age" of canal building occurred between the 1770s and 1830s, during which the majority of the network was constructed. From 1840 the canals began to decline, because the growing railway network was a more efficient means of transporting goods.



Railway Navvies wearing Bowler Hats

By the middle of the 19th century about 2,500 navvies were employed to work on the railways. Most of the work was done by hand, using picks and shovels.

Navvies lived in huts by the line they were working on. Some paid to sleep in a bed. Some paid less to sleep on the floor.

Working as a navvy was dangerous. Many navvies died due to accidents such as tunnels collapsing or explosions. Bowler hats were worn by some Navvies as they provided protection for their heads when working in tunnels or in situations where things might fall on them.



The only surviving railway navvy housing in Britain at Edmondthorpe & Wymondham Station in Leicestershire, protected as a Grade II Listed Building. It was provided by railway contractors for their itinerant workforce and their wives and children. Concern about insanitary and overcrowded conditions led to better accommodation being provided later.

The housing [for 10-12 people] may seem primitive by present-day standards but in the late nineteenth century it would have been an improvement on the cottages of the rural poor.” The navvy house is now used as outbuildings by the occupants of the former Station Master’s House, since the line closed to freight in 1964.

Bevendean Hospital – part 2

Bevendean Hospital from 1910 to the 1940s

Porters Lodge and Gates of the Bevendean Sanatorium, Brighton with the Administration Block in the background.



© Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove

Entrance Gates to Bevendean Hospital c1910

Between 1902-1905; two two-storied Pavilions were built, one of these was then used as the Scarlet Fever Ward and the other was used for patients suffering from consumption or tuberculous. In 1905, a large shelter was erected for the male consumptive patients, and about 1910 a small revolving shelter, for use by female patients, was presented to the hospital.

By 1910 the Isolation Hospital consisted of four main pavilions for infectious cases, an administrative block, the Borough disinfecting station, a laundry, and a small destructor.

The population of Brighton, estimated to the middle of 1910, was 181,900; this gave a proportion of beds to the population of about 1 to 800.

Consumption or T.B.

In Brighton consumptives were admitted to the Isolation Hospital for the first time in May, 1902. At first only a small number of beds were available, but later on this number was considerably increased. Since the education of the patients was the principal object, they were kept for only a short period, about four weeks. However, in certain cases patients were kept for much longer periods. Persons suffering from consumption were admitted in all stages of the disease. No charge was made. The only conditions made were that the patient was notified to the Medical Officer of Health and had resided in Brighton for two years immediately prior to admission to the Sanatorium.

It was found not to be practicable to set the consumptives to routine out-door work, comparatively few early cases being admitted. Those who were fit for exercise took it by walking on the Downs in the vicinity of the Sanatorium. Except in bad weather the patients for the most part lived and many slept out of doors.

In the majority of cases the patient's condition was very materially improved by residence at the Sanatorium, though it was only in the less advanced cases that the condition of the lungs appeared to be materially improved.

The education of the patients about their condition and how to cope was of great value to them. Up to the end of 1909, over eleven hundred patients suffering from consumption had been admitted, on at least one occasion, to the hospital wards. The weekly cost of each patient, was estimated at about 25/-.

Tuberculous Joints

In 1910 the treatment of early cases of tuberculous joint disease, spinal, hip, and knee cases were treated. Those cases required absolute rest over prolonged periods, to avoid deformity and crippling. Complete rest was not possible in working class houses, and the general hospitals did not have spare beds to keep such cases for nine months or more until a complete cure was affected. The result was that many of the children with tuberculous joints became permanent cripples.

The Municipal Laboratory

From 1898 bacteriological work was carried out by the Brighton Public Health Department, with the object of facilitating the early diagnosis of tuberculosis, diphtheria, and other infectious diseases.

Before the present laboratory was adapted to the purpose, about 1902, the work was carried out at the Municipal Technical School. In addition the Municipal Laboratory carried out the routine examination of Brighton's five sources of water, each of which was examined once a month both chemically and bacterioscopically.



Aerial Photograph of Bevendean Hospital taken in 1933

Smallpox in Brighton

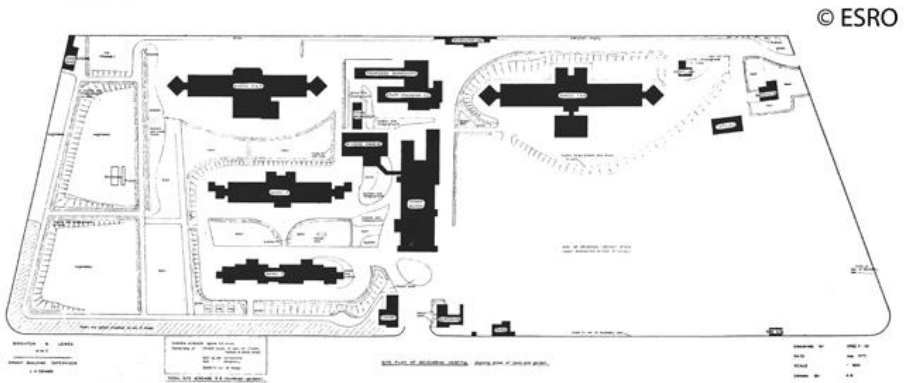
In December 1950 two Brighton residents admitted to Bevendean Hospital were found to be suffering from smallpox.

This put Bevendean Hospital in the headlines and while the town was searched for contacts the hospital coped with thirty-six cases and was sealed off from the outside world. Ten people died, including six hospital staff.

The outbreak was declared over after 43 days and on 6 February 1951 the gates were opened again and the staff given two weeks holiday while the hospital was fumigated. After this the hospital dealt with more general illness, in particular chest problems.

Improved X-ray and Diagnostic Facilities

In 1967 a diagnostic theatre and companion X-ray department were built, which was necessary so that the hospital could maintain and extend its diagnostic services to the Brighton area.



The Bevendean Hospital site in the 1960s

The theatre and X-ray department provided excellent facilities for the diagnosis of chest conditions and the hospital provided longer stay accommodation for patients who needed this. December 1968 saw the opening of a new Day Hospital for Psycho-geriatric patients.

The hospital closed on 24 April 1989. Except for the day ward for psycho-geriatrics which remained open until 26 September 1990 when a new location had been found.

In 1992 Sycamore Court a development of 40 houses with care units was built for the Anchor Housing Association on Bear Road east of the junction with Bevendean Road in the former Hospital site.

The rest of the site was sold for housing, with demolition starting in April 1993.

All that now remains in the 21st century is the high flint boundary wall and the lodges and gates at the entrance to the old hospital.



The Gates of the former Bevendean Hospital in July 2020

Fulking Grange

Brighton Sanatorium at Bevendean was too close to built-up areas to be allowed to deal with highly infectious diseases.

The Council bought a farm on Fulking Hill near Devil's Dyke in 1901 and converted the farm buildings into an isolation hospital, known as Fulking Grange, for smallpox cases.

The Sussex Beacon

The northern corner of the site bounded by Bevendean Road and Meadow View is now occupied by the Sussex Beacon. It opened in 1992, although fund raising for the charity had started a few years earlier.

It provides specialist care and support for people living with HIV. The service provides both inpatient and outpatient services.

The building has a 10-bed inpatient unit, therapy rooms and larger rooms for group work. There is also a landscaped garden for patients and visitors.



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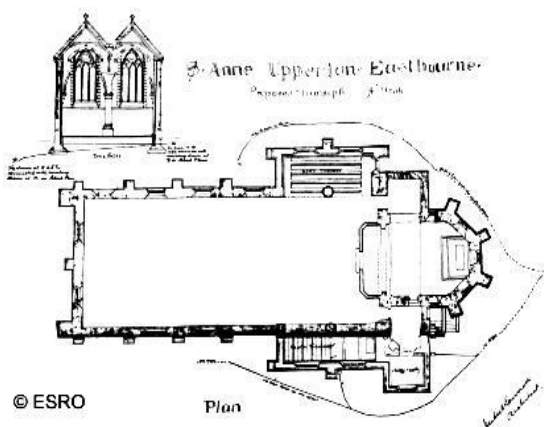
The Sussex Beacon in July 2020

St Anne's Church, Upperton Gardens, Eastbourne

In 1880 George Cowley Haddon designed a church for the Gilberts' Upperton estate, then being built.

The nave was built first at a cost of £4,000; the original plans show the nave with aisles and a planned polygonal apse.

The church was consecrated in November 1882.



© ESRO

Plan

1893 Plan of St Anne's Church

© ESRO



St Anne's Church c 1905

© ESRO



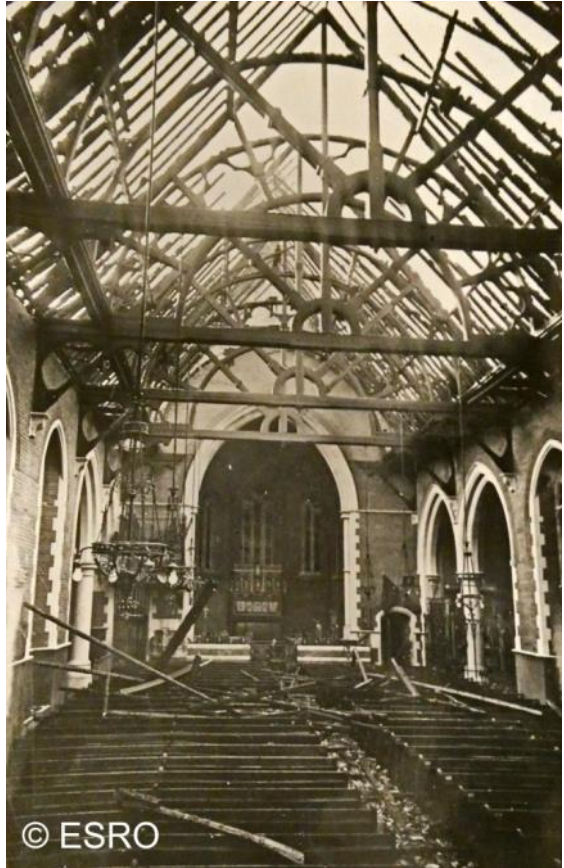
Vestries were added in 1883 and transepts followed in 1893. A vestry with a vault beneath for storage was added in 1898.

On Friday, 11 October 1940 just before noon a bomb fell close to the Church. Windows and tiles on the roof were damaged making it impossible to hold services there. On the 11 August 1942 incendiary bombs fell on the church, the Vicar the Revd. Ernest E. Walker made the following observations in the service register.

'On Friday 11th October, the Litany was said at 11.40 by the Vicar, Mrs Grant Warren being present in the Church.

Immediately before 12 noon, all being prepared for the Celebration of Holy Communion at 12 o'clock, a German Bomber dived on the town, and the third bomb dropped fell at the junction of Hartfield Road and Upperton Gardens south of the Church. Ten of the stained glass windows were very badly damaged; three utterly beyond repair. Others had small portions broken.

A small portion of woodwork fell from the ceiling in the South Aisle. Considerable damage was done to the tiling of the roof. The Vestry



St Anne's Church after the bombing on
11th August 1942

windows were blown out and some movement of coping stones above the windows resulted.

Though Mrs Grant Warren was unable to move from the pew in which she was seated, owing to permanent lameness, neither she nor the Vicar suffered any hurt, though glass scattered all over the Church and particles lodged in her hat and in his hair.

Workmen who were repairing the roof after a previous raids damage, were just able to reach shelter as the bomb exploded little more than one hundred feet away, and were all unhurt'. 'Laws Deo' means 'Praise be to God'. - Ernest Esdaile Winter - Vicar

In the next service register he wrote.

'Owing to the considerable damage caused by the air raid on 11th October 1940 it was impossible to use the building for all the services immediately. The Altar of the Lady Chapel was placed just within the Chancel Gates in order that the worship of the Church might be maintained at least by a Celebration of Holy Communion each Sunday until the Church might be normally used again.

The Church of St Saviour was most kindly put at the disposal of the worshippers at St Anne's for Matins at 11 a.m.'

The vicar made a note in the front of the last Marriage Register as follows.

On September 10th, 1946, St. Anne's Church Room was licensed for Marriages, and on September 19th, the direction that St. Anne's Marriages should take place at St. Anne's Church ceased to have effect.

The final marriage took place in St. Anne's Church Room, Eastbourne on 8th November 1954, when John Frederick Houghton married Patricia Diana Watts.

The church was so badly damaged that it never reopened and was finally demolished in 1955. Part of the Reredos designed by Sir John Ninian Comper in 1896, was rescued and placed in the new church of St Mary Magdalen at Coldean, Brighton.

John Phillips

An Estonian Cats Nest from Ann Phillips



“What do you mean this is not a cats nest? If I fits, I fits.” *By Sneaky.*

Bateman’s House at Burwash

Bateman's is a 17th century house set in the stunning landscape of the Sussex Weald. Bought by Rudyard Kipling and his wife, who fell in love with the house at first sight, it became a family home.

A modest yet charming sandstone house, Bateman's was completed around 1634 for a prosperous ironmaster. It was used as a farm house after the demise of the Sussex iron industry.



The front of Bateman's House at Burwash

Rudyard Kipling bought the house in 1902. Kipling lived here for 34 years and until his death in 1936 and described it as 'A good and peaceable place'. He was inspired by its history and used this in his writing.

'Behold us,' he wrote in November 1902, 'lawful owners of a grey stone, lichened house - A.D.1634 over the door - beamed, panelled, with old oak staircase and all untouched and unfaked.'

After Kipling's death in 1936 Bateman's passed to his wife Carrie and following her death in 1939 the house and 330 acres of land were given to the National Trust as a memorial to her husband.

Kipling's study looks and feels as though he has just left it and will return at any moment. The book-lined walls, his messy desk covered in ink spots, with its cigarette burns, are evidence that this was very much his space.

The walls of the dining room are decorated with early 18th Century English 'Cordoba' leather hangings depicting birds and foliage. Covered with silver leaf and then varnished they glisten like gold.

"The leather has been bought and is now in our possession. It is lovelier than our wildest dreams and will need immense care." - Rudyard Kipling wrote in a letter to his cousin Ambrose Poynter.



Rudyard Kipling's Study as it would have been when he lived there

Elsie Kipling the daughter of Rudyard Kipling was instrumental in opening Bateman's to the public in the second half of the 20th Century, and ensured that visitors saw a true representation of the home in which she grew up.

The keepsakes and memories she kept are displayed with her own captions in an exhibition room which celebrates Rudyard Kipling's literary and social work.

There is a pleasant walk of about half a mile from the house to a water mill at the far end of the garden. The mill is open on a couple of days during the week and is used to grind corn following recent repairs to the mill and pond.

The walk passes a rectangular pond in the lawn close to the house. This contains a large number of water lilies, some irises and many small fish. The pond is fed with water from the stream which provides water for the mill pond.

There are several walks around the estate which are accessed from the car park entrance, the longest of these is about 2½ miles.

Marjorie and I enjoy the peace and atmosphere of the house and grounds and usually visit once or twice a year.

John Phillips

My Roots

Thanks to my ancestors, I'm proud to call myself a son of Sussex; in fact a son of Brighton. My surname Simmons is not only referred to as a southern English name but the spelling is referred to as the Sussex spelling as we have an i, two m's and no d. Recently I have started to investigate the County of my birth.

Purely by accident I came across an article which states that we have a "Sussex" day to celebrate on 16 June each year. I then started to investigate whether there was anything else of interest. Only to find that Sussex has its own county flag, and there are also flags for both East and West Sussex. The Sussex day is to celebrate the patron Saint of Sussex who is St. Richard of Chichester. On the Sussex Flag there are 6 yellow birds; called "Martlets", which represent the 6 rapes of our County, a rape is a subdivision of the County.

Since the creation of the city of Brighton and Hove, I have discovered that we also have a flag. It has 3 Martlets (sorry no Seagulls).

With this information I decided as we are now parish in our own right, that we should fly the flag. So we now have a flagpole and flags relevant, not only to Sussex, but including the English flag of St George as well as our national union flag of Great Britain.



I have also, because of our very close links to St Andrews, obtained a Scottish flag. So that when you see that our flagpole is in use, the flag flying will hopefully explain what we are celebrating.

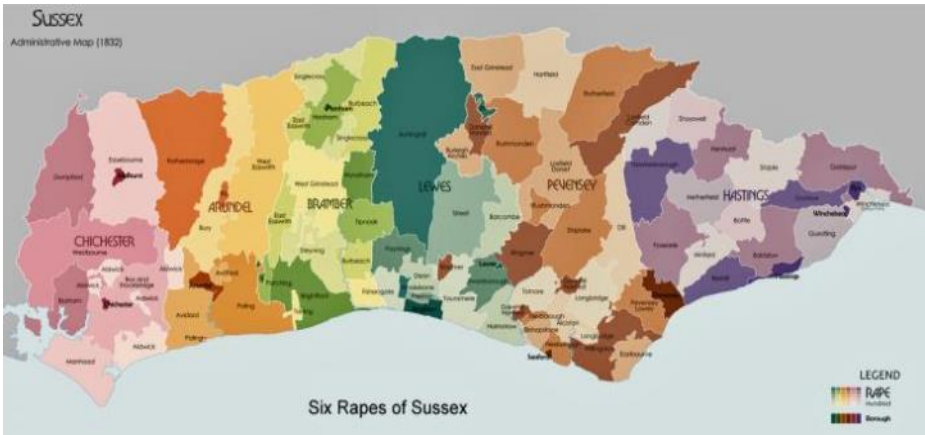
We are located within the rape of Lewes.

Paul Simmons

A martlet in English heraldry is a mythical bird without feet which never roosts and is continuously on the wing. It is a compelling allegory for continuous effort, expressed in heraldic charge depicting a stylised bird similar to a swift or a house martin, without feet.



At the top of the next page is a map showing the Sussex Rapes in 1832.



Changes in the Marriage Laws

Around the time that Victoria ascended the throne, new laws came into force regulating how her subjects could marry. Up until then, all marriages had to be performed according to the rites of the Church of England, with only Jews and Quakers exempt. The Marriage Act of 1836 made it possible to have a civil ceremony in a register office. The act also allowed nonconformist Christians and Catholics to marry according to their own rites, as long as they did so in a registered place of worship and with a civil registrar in attendance. From 1856, non-Christian places of worship could also be registered for marriage.

Despite the reforms, most couples continued to marry in an Anglican church. By 1900, such marriages still accounted for two-thirds of the total, with only one-sixth of couples choosing a civil ceremony. The fact that civil weddings took place in the actual office of the registrar may have put off many, however, a civil ceremony offered more privacy than one in church. Unsurprisingly, bigamists were twice as likely to choose a register office as was the norm.

The laws governing who could marry remained unchanged by the 1836 act, however: girls could marry at 12 and boys at 14. Anybody marrying under the age of 21 was encouraged to ensure they had

parental approval. Those who falsely swore on oath that they were of age and had parental consent could forfeit any property they might otherwise have gained through their marriage. Parents had the power to forbid the banns of marriage for children under 21, but there were plenty of ways of getting married without one's parents knowing, including eloping to a parish where the couple were unknown.

In 1929, in response to a campaign by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Parliament raised the age limit to 16 for both sexes in the Ages of Marriage Act. This is still the minimum age.

Since the Marriage Act 1836 it had been forbidden to marry between the hours of six in the evening and eight in the morning. This prohibition was not repealed until 1st October 2012.

The Registration of Marriage Regulations 2021 recognises that the system will allow more flexibility in introducing changes, and specifically cites the inclusion of same sex parents in the marriage entry as being one of the likely future changes to reflect our developing society.

From May 2021, the details of the mothers of both the bride and groom (name, surname and occupation) will be included alongside details of their fathers.

The system for registering marriages also changed from May 2021, when the paper-based system will move entirely online. There will no longer be a requirement to complete a paper-based formal green register for marriage, and the legal marriage certificate will not be issued at the time of marriage. Instead, the parties will sign a marriage schedule issued by the register office (or for marriages taking place in the Church of England or Church of Wales following ecclesiastical ceremony, a marriage document). This will contain all of the necessary information that will then be entered into the online marriage register, maintained by the Registrar General.

A Letter from Middlesbrough - Jennie Goatley

Hello you lovely lot,

I hope you are all well.

I can't believe that I've been Oop North for a month now. We are settled in, although it did take a while for Maisie and Seamus (our dogs). Their favourite place for a walk seems to be the local cemetery, I'm guessing because it's peaceful. Although our house is all finished we are still living in a building site as the rest of the new houses are still being built.

Aidan is fitting in with the locals, I think because he has tattoos, so they have accepted him as one of their own. He has also discovered a love for the local delicacy, the parmo.

(Parmo, or Teesside Parmesan, is a dish originating in Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire, and a popular item of take-away food in the Teesside area. It consists of a breaded cutlet of chicken or pork topped with a white béchamel sauce and cheese, usually cheddar cheese. The name of the dish is a reference to the dish chicken parmigiana, which is made with tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese. In an April 2019 survey, parmo ranked 20th in Britain's Top 20 Favourite Takeaways).

Rosie has an open day at the local College next week, which she is really looking forward to.

And me, I'm still waiting to start work, but the time off is great as I am spending a lot of time with my parents. My dad is actually going to come round and supervise me when I cut in my borders in the garden. I say supervise, it'll probably be more like bossing me about.

Sending lots of love to you all.

You are all in my heart xxx

Jennie

p.s send more gin, as I've ran out and it was delicious (only joking...it was delicious though)

p.p.s congratulations Betsy on being a Priest for 10 years. Hope you celebrated xxx



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