



# Coldean

Community & Church Magazine

Summer 2022

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**Coldean sends its good wishes to Her Majesty  
as we celebrate her Platinum Jubilee**

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## **A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine**

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Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.

Amen.

## Letter from the Vicarage - June 2022

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Dear Friends,

I really hope that you enjoy this edition of our magazine and the memories recorded within its pages.

My understanding of the past in this village comes mainly from our lovely John Phillips who is a fountain of knowledge when it comes to local history (and a brilliant Church Warden). Whenever I have wanted to know anything regarding the “Old Days” of this area I only ask John and he has the answer and on the rare occasion that he does not he will go off and research it at The Keep.

I am a child of a service family and my ancestors too served King and country. Now of course it is Queen and Country. At one point in my life, I was going to enter the services myself but due to family circumstances this became impossible. However, I did get to be a uniformed member of St John Ambulance and served as a volunteer for many years.

Then in 2010 I made, along with others, an oath of obedience and allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II her heirs and successors, as well as to the Church of England and her formularies and our Bishop and his successors. This was of course just before my ordination. I then spent four years as an Assistant curate in the centre of Brighton and then, to my delight I was offered a position at a beautiful church among a brilliantly, warm community. This was St Mary Magdalen Coldean, and this is where my memories of Coldean really begin. Oddly though, I did know of this church years before, through dropping my children’s belongings off prior to leaving for the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage, and I had heard a little bit about the people and the fundraising through being at university with Revd. Rachel Gouldthorpe. I can remember her standing in the University car park selling Christmas Puddings to all our class.

So, I have a knowledge of things that have taken place over the last eight years which is a lot. I am very eager to hear your stories of the earlier history of this place.

The 1950’s hold so many memories for people, just coming out of the final restrictions of WWII and then facing the death of King George VI in 1952 and the subsequent rise to the throne for the young Princess Elizabeth.

Meanwhile, far away in Coldean, the faithful were looking for a place to worship and in April 1955 the foundation stone was laid. Following a lot of arduous work, the once run-down barn was dedicated to the worship and service to God on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1955, this was a time of celebration and thanksgiving for the community and the church is still there serving all and excluding no one.

Then in July 1958, my parent celebrated my birthday! (I had to get that in). On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, this year we celebrate the reign of our Queen, her Platinum Jubilee, and St Mary Magdalen Church will also be celebrating this and another very special occasion on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July when our church and our memorial garden is to be Consecrated by The Bishop of Chichester. So, 2022 will be a year to remember for all of us, nationally and in our community.

Queen Elizabeth The Sovereign holds the title 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England and is a strongly committed Christian herself, a good and faithful servant to God and country. Your Majesty, we thank you for your faith and loyal service to all.

God Save The Queen!

Blessings,

*Revd. Betsy Gray-Hammond*

## **St Mary Magdalen Church Activities June to October**

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|--------------|--|
| 5 June 2022  | Events to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee at St Mary Magdalen Church starting at 1.00 p.m. |
| 16 July 2022 | Summer Fair at St Mary Magdalen 12 noon - 3 p.m.   |
| 22 July 2022 | St Mary Magdalen's Consecration and Patronal Festival at 7.00 pm.                                |
| 25 July 2022 | Childrens Holiday Club 25 – 29 July; 10 a.m. to 12 noon.   |
| 20 Aug 2022  | Family Fun Day 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  |
| 10 Sep 2022  | Quiz Night St MM 7 p.m.  |

## **Trudy's Memories of Coldean**

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My husband John, our 3 girls and I moved into Wolseley Road on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1975.

Our neighbours Arthur and Mary Trott welcomed us with tea and cakes ... it was a wonderful start to our lives in Coldean.

We remember the farmer grew crops in the field opposite and when it was harvested, we would watch the field mice and voles fleeing from the field, across the road and into the gardens, after the first year we had learned to ensure our doors were closed.

My girls all loved 'blind' Mary (as they knew her) and we were all amazed how she would go out with her guide dog, cross Coldean Lane to the woods and get back again safely. Not sure she could do that these days.

My friend Tina and I used to run a toddler class in the church hall, and from there I made some very good friends.

Our girls all attended Coldean School and had various teachers they loved. Mr Stone being a major influence for all of them ... a lovely man.

There was Pam who worked in the post office and Tom the greengrocer who I'm sure gave more fruit to the children than he actually sold.

There were the Palm Sunday Parades, where a real donkey walked through the streets along with all the congregation and Sunday School children.

There were the weekly brownies, maybe they still meet?

There was the great gale, the night before our youngest daughters 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Not only did it change the skyline over Stanmer it also made it easier for the bypass to be built. Before the gale, I hated the idea of cutting through the park ... but now I dread to think of the lane without the bypass!

Through all the changes, Coldean has remained a great community. I feel we are all very lucky to live here.

Trudy Weller

Editor's Note: Blind Mary was Mary Hitchins

## **Paul Simmons Memories of Coldean**

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My family moved from North Moulsecoomb to Coldean in 1962, I was 10 years old and my late brother Roger was 13 years old.

We moved into to an end of block, two bedroomed house. This meant that my brother and I were forced to share a bedroom. Fortunately, in those days, we didn't have much in the way of belongings. My parents had been lucky to obtain a 25 year Council mortgage.

Sharing a room with my brother wasn't great fun, but fortunately it soon became a much loved home.

My brother was already a pupil at Stanmer Secondary Modern School, now the car park for BACA. My parents decided that I should remain at Moulsecoomb Junior School as they felt that as it was only going to be short term solution as I was due to, also relocate to Stanmer School.

In those days, there were plenty of young families with school aged offspring, so it didn't take long to make new friends.

Some of our new friends decided to join my brother and I, and joined the local Boys Brigade Company at St Andrew's.

During the interval between moving schools, I had a serious accident which meant regular visits to Hospital to have my dressings changed. So, my first day at Senior school meant that I arrived looking like I'd been partially "mummified".

Not being an academic, I had to struggle and work very hard to keep up with my classmates. After being at school for a fifth year, I did manage to obtain 7 CSE qualifications. Then, on leaving school in

1968 I followed my brother into an apprenticeship with "Segas" as an apprentice fitter.

In 1971, my brother moved out after getting married, thus, I finally got the room to myself for 5 years, until I moved out after I married.

The house remained our family home till the mid 1990's, when my father sold up after my mother had passed away. He didn't want to live there on his own.

The home was in Hawkhurst Road, and we had 21 steps from the pavement to the front door. I was much fitter in those days and would rush around at top speed, so I managed to fall up and down the steps on a semi regular pattern. These days, now being in my 70's I don't run anywhere. I'm glad to say that I have many happy memories, as well as a few sad ones of Coldean. I feel, although, no longer a resident, that Coldean is my spiritual home, made extra special by being a Church Warden at St Mary Magdalen's Church, and being reunited with several old friends from my child hood.

God Bless you all

Paul Simmons

### **Raymond Bond Memories of Coldean**

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When I arrived back in Brighton after evacuation, just before D-Day I went to Elm Grove School for 6 weeks, taking my 11 plus exam. I wanted a bike so did the exams for everybody to save for it.

With my birthday money I bought a second-hand 20 inch wheeled bike at the end of that year. There were 15 boys all approximately the same age and we cycled everywhere. 2 main places to go were fishing at Cook's Bridge ponds and Barcombe Mills so I cycled along the Lewes Road and back over Ditchling Beacon and down Coldean Lane which was little more than farm track then.

The left-hand side of the lane was all barbed wire enclosed from there right over to Lewes racecourse. It was out of bounds, as the War Department trained men there and was not cleared of bombs

until 3 or 4 years after the end of the war. I came down the lane one day and there were police and army personnel at the bottom, a boy had climbed through the wire and picked up something, then it exploded and killed him.

My father was on special duties at the beginning of the war and was not called up until May or June 1943 when he went into the Royal Engineers. At the end of the war the London Dockers went on strike, after a very short period, so my father's unit and one other were brought back urgently to keep the docks moving. When the Dockers went back after many weeks, he was passed the age limit of his unit which was demobilised. So when the prefabs were built (British Steel) he was working on them and I can still remember saying, houses what have they come to, 8 coats of plaster on metal lathering to keep the water out will not last but they have as my daughter lives in one now.

In those days Good Friday was a standard working day, but families would visit the site to see where dad was working, and I went with my young sister and mum to visit the prefabs (steel framed houses) and then we all came home with him.

When I first started working, I plastered a few houses at the end of Rushlake Road, then all up Hawkhurst Road on the right and Selham Road and Close, then on to Saunders Hill. When the houses in Selham Road and Close were finished, the soil pipes and some drainpipes were made of asbestos. All the rainwater guttering and down pipes were made of asbestos but the local authority would not allow asbestos waste pipes to be fitted so lead pipes were used.

The houses were all checked by the clerk of works on the Friday ready to hand over to the housing department on the Monday. When inspected on the Monday the whole of the lead wastes had been cut at the wall and the stack pipes taken, the houses were not handed over for about 4 more weeks while the pipes were all replaced.



At the top of Saunders Hill is a block of 7 houses, rendered outside by my mate Fred and I who put on the base coat. When finished there had been 3 gangs working on the outside as scaffolding in those days was not supplied by an independent company. The scaffolding had putlogs built in the walls as the wall went up. Fred I were on the top level and the scaffolding was moved behind us so that the level below could follow, and at the end of the day, the day joint would be in one line so there was no making good to the putlog holes, the work had to be finished in one go.

When we were on the last side, Fred and I had finished the gable and we were finishing the final area at the top level, the second level was round the corner and finishing that area. The team was made up with a third gang on the bottom, and reaching the corner they stopped for tea. The scaffolder's were removing the last section on the corner. As they released the corner the sections left fell and pulled the putlogs out of the wall as the whole unit went down.

I jumped into the rear door opening and Bill our labourer came in the front door to see if I was all right. We looked at one another and said "Fred". We rushed upstairs to where the bathroom was to be to find Fred on the windowsill with one arm in the fanlight. We opened the window and pulled him in. We had tea whilst the scaffolder sorted out everything so that we could finish.

I still shudder when I drive up Coldean Lane and look and see that head wall.

As I said my daughter lives there and her 3 daughters went to school so Pat and I visited often and I still do.

Note. A putlog is a short horizontal pole projecting from a wall, on which scaffold floorboards rest.

### **Happy Memories at St Mary Magdalen's Church, Coldean**

Well, if you ever thought that church was just about a Sunday morning service, you could be missing out on so many other

fantastic times. I was attending St Andrews church in Moulscoomb for a few years before I moved to Coldean and have some of my greatest memories from my times there, including getting married and having our first child's christening. I also got confirmed in St Andrews, which was a super occasion for all that evening. But, moving from Bevendean to Coldean in November 2003 we decided to see what St Mary Magdalen's was like as it was nearer and went to our first Sunday service. It didn't take long before me, my wife and first daughter were warmly welcomed into the congregation and St MM soon become part of our lives. Looking back over the 19 years at St MM it's mad to think what we have been involved in, with so many memories it's too hard to remember them all let alone mention them all. My wife started helping with Sunday school and I quickly joined the DCC. We helped run a youth club for many years, which was great fun. Usually between 10 – 20 primary school age kids, once a month on a Friday evening with lots of games, music, karaoke, pool table, table tennis and of course a tuck shop selling all my favourite sweets! We also helped run the Saturday morning disco that was also once a month and finished every year with a Christmas special in December. Featuring Mr. Father Christmas himself, wearing his famous white Adidas trainers while handing out pressies to all the children. I remember once playing the requested song 'Gangman style' four times in a row, (if you haven't heard it, you must have been living on the moon) while the kids danced around the hall like a bunch of wild dancers flinging their arms in the air. And there was always a lovely bible story halfway through the morning, complete with a puppet show by the wonderful Reg Neville, which the kids loved to participate in.

Both of my other two children have since been christened at St MM and we have had some great times helping out and being part of the nativity plays over the years at Christmas, as well as children holiday clubs and Halloween light parties. There have also been many adult/family functions at the church over the years. One of my favourites was the barn dance in the church and also the line

dancing nights which were great fun. There have been fancy dress discos, firework nights, karaoke nights, race nights to name just a few. Of course, the summer fairs and winter fairs are always good to be part of and for many of the fairs I have run the BBQ while my wife and children have helped out on many different stalls from cake stalls to plate smashing stalls. The Coldean festival which was a few years ago, to which St MM was part of, was a real joyful day. Hundreds of people turned out that day with lots of laughter all day long. Somehow, I managed to cook well over 400 hotdogs and burgers that day, amazing, but very hot!

I have also had many of my own family parties in the church hall over the years, with a very special 50th wedding anniversary party for my mum and dad, which Rev Betsy kindly helped me surprise my mum and dad in front of all their guests to a renewal of their wedding vows. As well as all the fun events I've been to at church, there have also been many special events to look forward to like the patronal festivals each year, with a touching service and a tasty buffet and party afterwards. And does St MM love a buffet, some of the best in town and I'm not joking either, you definitely won't go hungry at a St MM do!!

Believe me when I say I could go on and on at how wonderful being part of a church is, with so many good times with so many great people. It has become a family over the years and part of my life, but that is what Jesus wants it to be all about. Sadly, Covid changed a lot for a while, but many great things have happened at the church since Covid, like the food bank and meals that are delivered to the community in need. And I'm looking forward to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations that are being held at the church with the help of the community. Even though I've had all these amazing memories at St MM over nearly two decades with my family, none are more important to me than the memories of attending the Sunday morning service. For without the Sunday morning service, I wouldn't have had the pleasure of all the other beautiful memories.

So, thank you St Mary Magdalen church in Coldean for all you've given me over the years, and may the happy memories keep coming!

Marc Boase

## **The Development of South Coldean**

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Coldean was part of Stanmer and was purchased by Sir Henry Pelham in 1713. Sir Henry had the grounds landscaped and built Stanmer House. In 1776, the Pelham family acquired Falmer manor and the two were combined and later known as the Chichester Estate, the Lord of the Manor received the title Earl of Chichester in 1801.

### **Coldean in the Eighteenth Century**

A map drawn in 1799 by William Figg shows the menagerie farm at Coldean, later this was simply referred to as Coldean farm.



The map is from the Keep Archives at the East Sussex Records Office.

The old cottage, on the next page, was originally a barn, built about 1740.

The brick front and Georgian doorway were later additions, and on the plaque above the door was the date 1784, and the initials T.A.P.

These stood for Thomas Pelham and his wife Anne, who lived in Stanmer House.



Their favourite walk was from the house, via a path leading past the monument to Frederick Frankland (Anne's father), over Farm Hill and down to this cottage, which was the home of their pet dogs and other animals, hence the name – Menagerie.

The half-timbered house adjoining was added about 1830. The photographs were taken in 1950, and the houses were demolished in December 1955.

The picture on the next page is of three fine old flint cottages, occupied for many years by workers on Coldean Farm. They were demolished in 1960, to make way for the old people's flats which occupy the site today.



The Cottages were photographed in 1954.

Ordnance survey maps from 1875 show both the menagerie farm, barns and cottages halfway up Coldean Lane and a few houses at the bottom of Coldean Lane adjacent to the Lewes road.

There were several more cottages built at the bottom of Coldean Lane adjacent to the Lewes Road probably in the 1700s for farm or estate workers to living in.

In the 1930s Coldean Lane was just a country lane some distance away from Brighton. It served the dual purpose of linking the Ditchling Road and Lewes Road and leading to Coldean Farm that was situated midway between these two roads. The photograph below shows Coldean Lane as it was before improvements were made. This view shows the junction with Lewes Road. You can see the old farm cottages and traces of an earlier slight widening. At this time the area lay outside the municipal boundaries and it was not until 1952 that it was absorbed into the Brighton borough. With

the completion of the estate and school, increasing traffic and the use of buses made widening of the narrow country lane a necessity and in 1954 it was decided to widen Coldean Lane throughout.

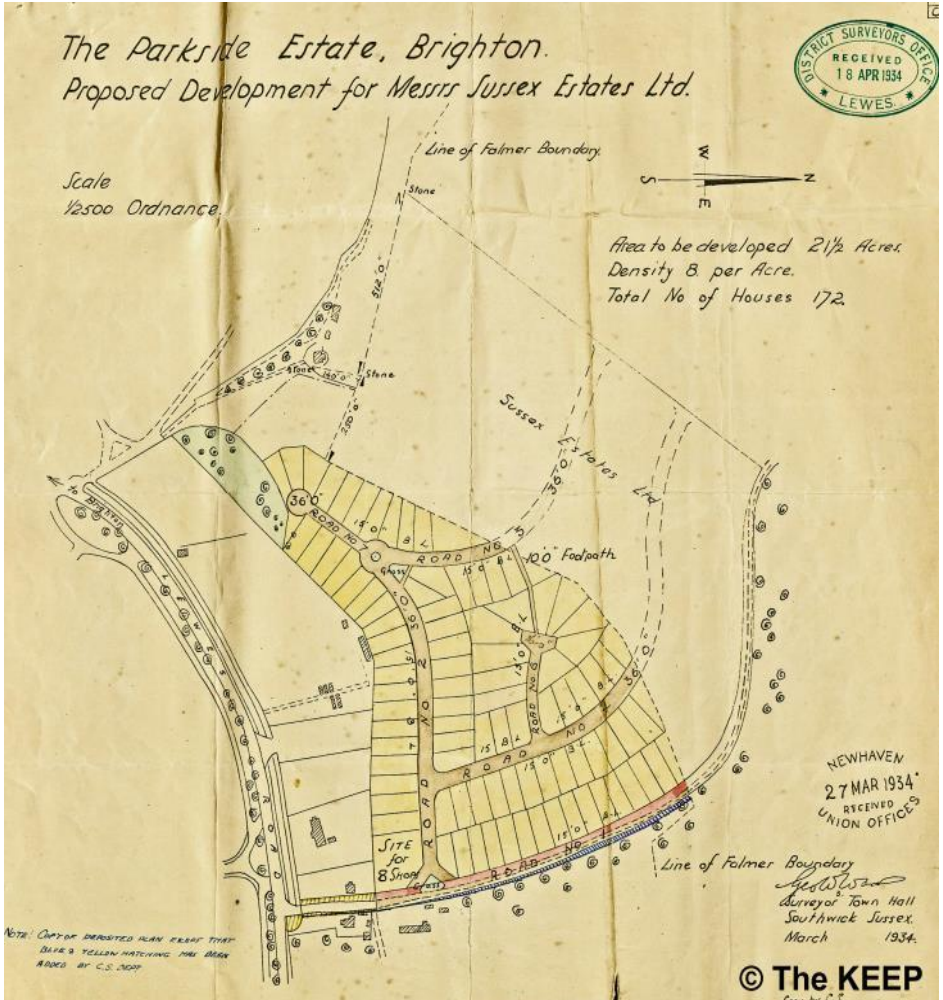


The bottom of Coldean Lane photographed in 1954 with a cottage on each side of the road looking like lodges at the entrance to an estate. The sign for the Hikers Rest is just visible to the left of the bus.

### **Coldean Development in the 1930s**

The southern part of Coldean was developed first when Mr James on behalf of Sussex Estates Ltd purchased a total of 40 acres for £12,000 in 1933 and 1934. The land was to be used for building houses in Park Road, Coldean Lane, part of Ridgeview and part of West Drive now known as Rushlake Road. Part of the agreement also allowed for improvements to the southern end of Coldean Lane where it joins the Lewes Road.

At this time planning in this area was controlled by Chailey Rural District Council who were responsible for agreeing to the plan submitted by Mr James on behalf of Sussex estates Ltd.



The plan above shows the proposed layout at the southern end of Coldean Lane. From the archives held at the Keep in Woollards Way.



The top photograph was taken on 13 April 1951 and shows Park Road, Coldean when the road was not much better than a cart track.



The picture below is a similar view from the 1960s after the road was made up.



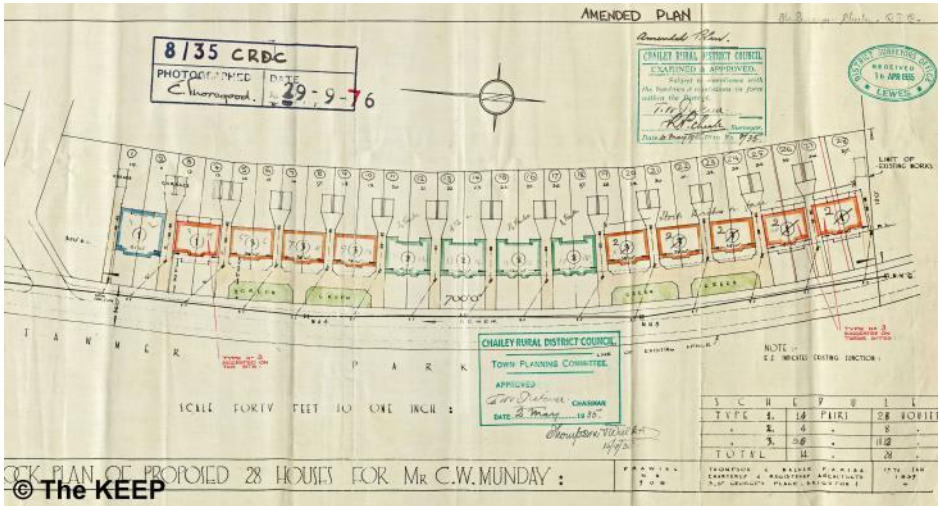
In 1935 plans were drawn up to build eight shops and four garages, on the south side of Park Road where it joins Coldean Lane on the Parkside Estate.



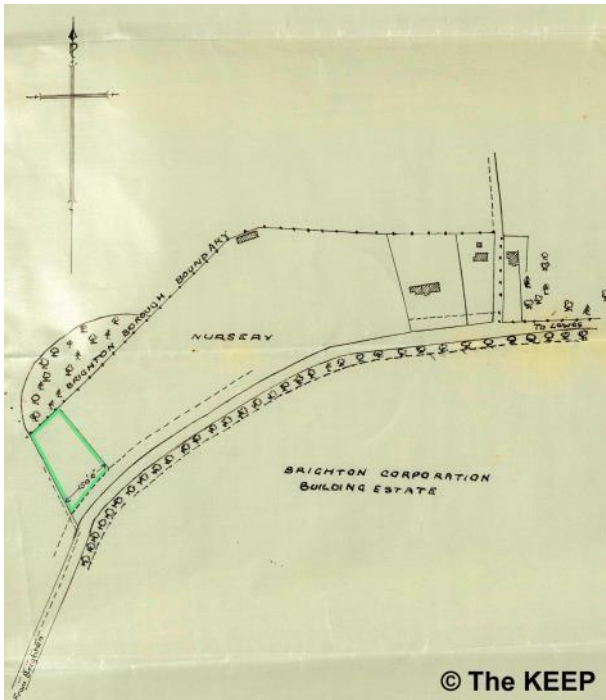
The photograph here shows the shops in Park Road in the 1960s. The Hikers Rest public house is to the left of the photograph. The Parkside Newsagent and Tobacconist shop is in centre of the picture.

Today, there are 4 shops in the parade, one of which does not appear to be occupied at the present time.

Plan for 28 houses in Coldean Lane were approved in 1935. There was a stipulation that these houses had to be built on the style setting a minimum price of £600 each. The same stipulation applied to houses built in Park Road and West Drive.



The first site for a public house at Coldean.



Kempton Brewery purchased a small piece of land at one end of the nursery which ran alongside the Lewes road near Coldean Lane with the intention of building a public house on the site. This did not happen and the land was sold back to Brighton Borough Council in 1937. The site was 150 feet wide at the road side and is shown with a green

edge on the plan above.

## The Hikers Rest

Plans were drawn up by Denman and Son to build a public house near the bottom of Coldean Lane. John Denman was the architect who was responsible for the conversion of the barn at the menagerie farm into a church.



Exterior drawings for the new hotel to be built at Coldean dated January 1937.

Both plans are from the Keep Archives at the East Sussex Records Office. They were drawn when the area was under the control of Chailey Rural District Council.

In 1950, the Corporation bought the rest of the land at Coldean; and the whole valley was brought within the Borough of Brighton on 1 April 1952 when, under the terms of the 1951 Brighton Extension Act, most of the territory covered by Falmer and Stanmer parishes was annexed.



The Hikers Rest Public House at Coldean in the 1960s.

The construction of houses and other facilities began after this. Churches, a school, a library and shops were all provided; regular bus services were started.

Coldean is characterised by low-density housing, much of it semi-detached and most now owner-occupied, with roads following the contours of the landscape. The deep valley, its steep sides mainly wooded and unsuitable for development, give the impression of an area isolated from the rest of Brighton and the area has the character of a quiet garden suburb.

### **A Transcript of Coldean People's memories recorded in 2009**

People's memories from the time they moved into the estate mostly in the 1950s and 1960s.

People would grow their own vegetables when I first moved into the estate.

Irish tinkers would come round the estate and mend people's kettles.

A man came round the estate on a Saturday to cut people's hair. The reason he came on Saturday was to ensure that the men were at home so he could cut their hair.

In 1951 there were just a few houses which had been privately built at the bottom of Coldean Lane. There were a couple of shops and the public house at the bottom of the Lane (The Hikers Rest)

The Council bought the land from the Stanmer estate, in 1951 there were a few houses in Coldean Lane and a few more in Rushlake Road, and at that time it was called West Drive.

The whole of the area was farmland with just a barn halfway up the lane.

In 1954 there were hardly any shops just a greengrocer, a chemist shop and a butcher. The bus service was not very good once an hour down into the town. It was quite a trek to take a bus into the town to do shopping.

In 1959 the bus from Brighton came as far as Hawkhurst Road and no further.

At the age of 5, I had a long walk to Moulsecomb Primary School; it seemed a very long way.

On 1 April 1952 all of Coldean became part of Brighton Borough and by 1981 the population of Coldean was 3,500.

Mr Olver was the chemist in the early days, now it is Manish (2009).

Mr Olver was a mainstay of the community he would run prescriptions round to people's houses and I remember sometimes he wore a bowtie. He was also a churchwarden in the 1970s and a great supporter of the church.

A man came round the estate with a cart selling 12 herrings for one shilling also winkles and whelks were sold from a cart in the street.

A rag and bone man came round with a horse and cart; he gave people goldfish in a plastic bag for old rags.

One person remembers that they kept the apples with dark specks in them to give to the rag and bone man's horse.

He paid people half a penny for a small glass jar and 2p for 2 pound glass jar, so recycling is not new.

Someone referred to being able to buy Hokey Pokey. Hokey Pokey is a flavour of ice cream in New Zealand, consisting of plain vanilla ice cream with small, solid lumps of honeycomb toffee.

When we were young we went into the woods and felt at home, there were birds in the trees and we looked for trails of animals that had been out during the night.

At Easter we wore Easter Bonnet's, I went to Eastbourne and joined over 100 people and there was one with a hat with a board on top and a model of a fairground mounted on top of the board.

Families were very close; we sometimes took a picnic and went on a hired coach to somewhere away from Coldean. I remember going to Scaynes Hill for one picnic.

I remember on Fridays we had a delivery from a grocer in town called Mr Jones. His box of goodies included a box of biscuits and one chocolate biscuit wrapped up in foil. Everyone wanted the chocolate biscuit but as the youngest child in the house I often got the chocolate biscuit.

I went to Moulsecomb Primary School where the classes were very large.

Gladys White remembers that she had an elder brother who went to work in London at the age of 16. She had 2 sisters working with live-in jobs so there was only herself and her younger brother at home. This brother was Charles Yates who wrote about the local area and took Gladys out a lot.

Someone else lived opposite the Wild Park and they would take sandwiches and drinks and spend the whole day in the park picking elderberries and dandelions. These would be taken home and prepared for her father to make wine. They moved to Littlehampton and the barrel containing the liquid to make the wine was taken all the way on the cart without a drop being spilt. Unfortunately a little later when the barrel was in the garden it was knocked over by the children playing. A very sad loss for the winemaker!

In 1976 there was a country fair in Stanmer village.

A lot of people from Coldean had stalls and everyone dressed up in mediaeval costumes. They had a pig roast in a field that Summer.

It was difficult to get down the town so people made their own entertainment and spent a lot of time chatting over the fence.

We used to go into other people's houses much more often than we do today. People are often indoors watching television these days.

In the early days at Coldean people did not have as much money to buy things we just had to make do. Being able to buy more now has not made us happier we have lost the spirit we had in the early days at Coldean.

Coldean is not as compact as it used to be there are lots of people who have a car which they get into and go on their way. No one had a car in the old days you had to travel by bus, things were much cheaper then.

Building the bypass with the loss of a slice of Stanmer Woods was seen as detrimental but it has taken a lot of traffic away from Coldean Lane which is a benefit to the people of Coldean.

Gladys always loved Coldean because many years ago before she moved to Coldean, when she was little girl, her sister and her sister's husband used to take her out for picnics. We walked all the



way from Brighton to Coldean which was a long way to me then I must have been about 10 years old.

We would walk up a little Lane (Coldean Lane) with the farm halfway up (the Menagerie) where we would stop and buy some milk. Higher up was a pond which is still there today in the corner of the school grounds. We often picnicked by the pond.

It made me think of the song 'Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag'.

Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag

And smile, smile, smile,

While you've a lucifer to light your fag,

Smile, boys, that's the style.

What's the use of worrying?

It never was worth while

So pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag

And smile, smile, smile.

A large number of covers of the song replace the lyric "When you've a lucifer to light your fag" with "Don't let your joy and laughter hear the snag", due to the health effects of smoking.

Who is Lucifer in Bible?

Many Christians believe the Devil was once a beautiful angel named Lucifer who defied God and fell from grace. This assumption that he is a fallen angel is often based on the book of Isaiah in the Bible which says, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!"

### **One Solitary Life**

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Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the power of His divine manhood.

While still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying - and that was his coat.

When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Twenty centuries have come and gone and today He is the centre-piece of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life.

Attributed to James Allen Francis in 1926

To hire the church hall please contact: Debbie Annells

Telephone: 07508 625 667

e-mail: office4stmm55@btinternet.com

The hourly rate is £18.00

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# Christopher Stringer

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