



Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society Newsletter

Number 177

January 2018



50th Celebration cake
Kindly baked by Kate Forde for the AGM
(*Malcolm Dawes*)

Newsletter 177

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Editorial

Welcome to *Newsletter 177*, and the start of a new year. As we move into the 51st year of the society it is worth considering what we are all going to do to research and view the IA in our county. There is much to be still recorded and found, do keep your eyes and ears open.

There is much that can be done to encourage others to join in our interests, both adults and youngsters. I read that Apple is being pressurised by it's shareholders to do something to counter the growing addiction by teens (and younger!) to their smartphones, maybe they could programme them to switch off for 12 hours a day?



The tea house at Fairmile Bottom on the A29 N.W. of Arundel.
Now happily moved and restored to its original use at nearby Amberley Museum

Forthcoming SIAS Events

Malcolm Dawes

The following SIAS meetings are held
at West Blatchington Mill Barn, Holmes Avenue, Hove BN3 7LF

Saturday 20th January, 7.30pm. *By train to Chichester 1846- 2016*

Chichester was - and still is some say - a one horse town but it was very early on the railway map when the West Coast line of the LB&SCR arrived in 1846. It was soon extended west to Portsmouth, and in 1881 a new line was opened to Midhurst followed in 1897 by the infamous Selsey Tramway, meaning it was now possible to travel by train north, south, east and west of the city. In this talk Alan Green looks at the varying fortunes of these lines from LB&SCR to (new) Southern Railway days, interspersed with the memories of a schoolboy gricer.

Saturday 10th February, 7.30pm. *Film Nite*

Following our successful previous archive evenings, we plan to delve into the archives again. Martin Snow invites suggestions of items for possible inclusion.

Saturday 17th March, 7.30pm. *The Pullman Story 1874 to Date*

with Mike Hudson & Phil Evans.

From their introduction on the 'Midland' in 1874 some 500 Pullman Cars have run in Britain, this overview looks at their history and operation.

Please see the Mills Newsletter for details of Mills Group activities

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#### **A Thatched Telephone Call Box**

Malcolm Dawes found this newspaper clip of a rustic call box that was erected in Eastbourne.

A far cry from today's stark stainless steel models, though it may have not been very resistant to the vandals of today!

"In July 1925, Eastbourne Corporation wanted two kiosks — one to be located at the Redoubt Bowling Green and the other at Hampden Park,"

"These two sites were close to a bowling pavilion and a tea pavilion, both of which had thatched roofs.

"Consequently, the two K1s that were supplied came embellished with their own thatched roofs!"

## Events from Other Societies

### Malcolm Dawes

Detailed below are events organised by other societies, which may be of interest to our members. If you have details for future events please send these to:

Malcolm Dawes, 52 Rugby Road, Brighton, BN1 6EB

or email to [malcolm.dawes@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.dawes@btinternet.com)

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 11.00am to 3.00pm. *Origins of the South Downs Park (Dr Geoffrey Mead) and Lime Plastering, Pargetting, Fresco and Scraffito (Bill Sargeant)***

Part of Wealden Studies Group Programme of Winter Lectures. Further information on cost and arrangements for this study day are detailed at [www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk/events/meetings-and-workshops](http://www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk/events/meetings-and-workshops).

The lectures take place at Wivelsfield Church Hall.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 7.30pm. *The story of Crystal Palace and its transport*** Volk's Electric Railway Association talk by Ian Gledhill. The story of the building, its transfer to Sydenham and its tram and trolley bus links. £2 for visitors. West Blatchington Windmill, Barn, Holmes Avenue, Hove. [www.volkselectricrailway.co.uk](http://www.volkselectricrailway.co.uk)

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 10am to 4pm. *Open day at the Brede Steam Engines*** Steam and working industrial engines. Situated 6 miles from Hastings on A28 to Ashford. 01323 897310.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm. *The Normans in Sussex***

Costumed performance by Paul Ullson, historical interpreter. Chichester Local Historical Society event. Visitors £3. New Park Centre, New Park Road, Chichester. 01243 784915.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 8.00pm. *Sussex gravestones and graveyards***

Wivelsfield Historical Society event talk by Kevin Gordon. Visitors £2.50. Wivelsfield Village Hall. [www.wivelsfield-historical-society.co.uk](http://www.wivelsfield-historical-society.co.uk)

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 10am - 4.30pm.**

***Sussex Vintage Model Railway Collectors Spring Toy and Model Show***

Knole Hall, Knole Road, Brighton. Confirm details at [www.sussex-transport.co.uk/svmrc](http://www.sussex-transport.co.uk/svmrc)

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm. *South Downs Film Makers showing their film about the Connaught Theatre along with some other short films***

Worthing Society event. Visitors £3. Worthing Library Lecture Theatre. [www.worthingsociety.org.uk](http://www.worthingsociety.org.uk)

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10am to 4pm. *Open day at the Brede Steam Engines*** Steam and working industrial engines. Situated 6 miles from Hastings on A28 to Ashford. 01323 897310.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 8.00pm. *Gentry in the Landscape***

Geoffrey Mead looks at aspects of Firle, its geology, landscapes, farming, settlements, Firle Place and cottage homes. Wivelsfield Historical Society event. Visitors £2.50. Wivelsfield Village Hall. [www.wivelsfield-historical-society.co.uk](http://www.wivelsfield-historical-society.co.uk)

**Weekend 16<sup>th</sup>– 18<sup>th</sup> March. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of closure**

Special events over weekend. Bluebell Railway [www.bluebell-railway.co.uk](http://www.bluebell-railway.co.uk)

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm. *Railways and Warfare 1865-1914 – The World follows the Yankees***

Newcomen Society lecture by Bob Otter. Portland Building, Room PO1-11 of the University of Portsmouth, Portland Street, Portsmouth. Some on-street parking is available locally but there is a charge for use of the adjacent University car parks. Visitors welcome and admission is free. Information from [newcomen.com](http://newcomen.com). To book places and confirm details contact [robert.otter@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.otter@btinternet.com)

**Weekend 23<sup>rd</sup>– 25<sup>th</sup> March. *Diesel Gala***

Bluebell Railway. [www.bluebell-railway.co.uk](http://www.bluebell-railway.co.uk)

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm. *The influence of the army and other defences on resort development in Sussex c1770-1815***

Brighton and Hove Archaeology Society, Local History Forum presentation by Sue Berry. Ventnor Hall, Central United Reform Church, 102 Blatchington Road, Hove. £3 non-members. [www.brightonarch.org.uk](http://www.brightonarch.org.uk)

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm. *Trams around the south***

Volk's Electric Railway Association talk by Peter Williams. Trams that served towns in the south east. West Blatchington Windmill, Barn, Holmes Avenue, Hove. [www.volkselectricrailway.co.uk](http://www.volkselectricrailway.co.uk)

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 10am to 4pm. *Open day at the Brede Steam Engines***

Steam and working industrial engines. Situated 6 miles from Hastings on A28 to Ashford. 01323 897310.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 8.00pm. *Farming in Kent in the 40s and 50s***

Life on a 48acre farm in the Weald of Kent. Wivelsfield Historical Society talk by Peter and Jackie Bates. Visitors £2.50. Wivelsfield Village Hall. [www.wivelsfield-historical-society.co.uk](http://www.wivelsfield-historical-society.co.uk)

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. *The 2018 South East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference***

Organised by Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group and held at St Marys Church Hall, Castle Street, Windsor.

For access information see [biag.org.uk/event/seriac-2018](http://biag.org.uk/event/seriac-2018)

Programme and booking form are included with this newsletter.

*Do please check details before travelling.*

*The details of these meetings and events organised by other groups are only included as a guide and as a service to members:*

*Inclusion here is not intended to be seen as an endorsement*

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*A report on the Borough Sessions in the Brighton Guardian dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 1866 contained the following interesting prosecution which has parallels with the television programme Rogue Traders with a whistleblower and a carefully organised sting. It also mirrors present day procedures by trading standards officers.*

## **Rogue Trader 1866**

### **Prosecution for Fraudulently Using Trade Marks**

**John Blackwell**

John Yeomans a beerhouse keeper and brewery agent was indicted “that he did apply, or cause to be applied, the trade mark of Bass to certain bottles containing beer, such beer not being the manufacture of the said company with attempt to defraud Michael Thomas Bass and others”.

Prosecution counsel explained the Act, under which the indictment was framed, was passed in 1862. Before the Act was passed it was felt to be a great grievance to honest and respectable tradesmen, who had earned a reputation by industry and perseverance for supplying certain articles that other and inferior goods should be sold to the public by false and fraudulent pretences under their name.

The first witness called for the prosecution was Richard James Larkin the London and Brighton agent for Messrs Bass, the Burton brewers, who testified as follows. “In consequent of instructions received from them (Messrs Bass) on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August (1866) I called on a man named Martin and on the same day went with him to the prisoners premises. This was between one and two o’clock. The premises are a beerhouse at No 80 Carlton Hill. Prisoner is a beerhouse keeper. There I saw a woman behind the bar and a man named Fellows whom I had known some years. I ordered a dozen bottles of Bass’s Pale Ale, six imperial pints and six quarts. Martin was there drinking; seeing Fellows I left after ordering, but before I left I gave half a sovereign to Martin with certain directions. I left the house and went to a corner from which I could see the corner of the prisoner’s house. I saw Martin leave with the bottles and pass into a turning to a cab which I had in waiting and put the bottles in it. He (Martin) gave me a piece of paper (hereby produced), receipted, and 2s-9d the change for the beer out of a half sovereign. I then got into the fly (cab) and drove to the Star and Garter Hotel and into the bar parlour where I put my initials on each label and cork of the bottles. I sent three bottles of each kind to Burton on Trent and kept the others myself”.

The bottles were produced and identified as the same.

“The labels are Messrs Bass’s with the mark B367 showing the labels were supplied to Mr W. H. Stone of North Street Brighton. They were sent to him in the course of his business. Labels are sent to persons who bottle Messrs Bass’s beer. On some



we put the person's name but on these which we call plain labels we put a letter and a number. Cross examined the witness stated he had known Fellows for about eleven years being a good customer of the firm when he carried out business in Western Road Brighton which he left some three years ago, subsequently becoming bankrupt, and he had not seen him since until accidentally meeting him on the 27<sup>th</sup> August. He did not know Martin except by the letter handed to him by his firm (Messrs Bass). When he called on him as instructed Martin told him he was partially in the prisoner's service and he gave him a shilling to get some beer at the prisoners premises. Larking also stated that "the price of Messrs Bass's beer is sixty shillings per barrel, (56 gallons) ten percent being take off for cash, that makes it fifty four shillings for cash. A month is cash. Beer is supplied direct through me only when trust is given"

Martin Martin was the sworn in to give evidence as follows :- I am 45 years old and have been in the bottling trade for 25 years. On the 4<sup>th</sup> June last I entered the service of the prisoner. I had to look after the house, bottle beer and carry beer out to customers. Prisoner dealt with Chaplin of Stockwell for his beer. About a week after entering his service he gave me instructions about bottling beer, the brewer's mark on the barrel was Chaplin & Co. KKK150. After I had done that barrel I was to take the others in rotation of which there were ten 36 gallon barrels of Chaplin's beer in the cellar. Next morning I asked for labels to put on the



bottles. Prisoner gave me Bass's labels to which I said "Why guv'nor this is not right they are Bass's labels. He replied "Oh never mind that, that's nothing. We've plenty of labels". He continued that he had put as much as sixty dozen bottles on shelves in the bar, -the prisoner did a fair retail trade-, and bottled five barrels and a half from when he had entered service until the 11<sup>th</sup> August. "I only bottled beer from Chaplin's casks, prisoner was often in the cellar. "I left the prisoner's service on 11<sup>th</sup> August and communicated with Messrs Bass on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. I have never been an informer before nor know anyone who has. On 27<sup>th</sup> August, I met with

Mr Larking by appointment at the (beer)house. I arrived first, a person named Fellows was managing the business and Larking came in and asked for a dozen of Bass's Pale Ale, half a dozen pints and half a dozen quarts. Mrs Moon took the order and called out to Fellows who was then on a chair with his back towards us doing something at the shelves. At the time the order was given Fellows could not see me or Mr Larking. Mr Larking gave me half a sovereign to pay for the ale and then left the house. I paid 7s/3d for the bottles of beer and took them to Mr Larking who was waiting nearby with a fly and he drove away".

W. H. Stone testified that the defendant was in his employ a few years back and that he had been supplied through him with two hogsheads (45gallons) of Bass's Pale Ale on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1865 and returned empty in March 1866 and that the labels produced in court were his. Edmund Fellows confirmed he served Martin on 27<sup>th</sup> August with half a dozen quarts and half a dozen imperial pints with Bass & Co. Labels on them. Detective Starley testified that after taking the prisoner into custody on the warrant produced he searched his premises. "I did not find any loose labels of Messrs Bass but I found a large number of bottles with their labels upon them. I also found some of Allsopp's (another Burton brewer) and another but none of the prisoners own labels. Evidence was then heard from John Matthews head brewer of Messrs Bass of Burton on Trent and a practical chemist who said, "the water at Burton is peculiar, its peculiarity arises from the sulphate of lime obtained from the gypsum beds in the neighbourhood. That property is retained in the beer". From the results of the beer sent to me, "I can say in the first place, from the specific gravity, that it was not Bass's Pale Ale because the specific gravity is never less than 1.063 (we aim to make it 1.065). (The Brighton beer being 1.054). I also know from the amount of sulphate of lime that it was not brewed in Burton because it contains less sulphate of lime than the water itself." (1.36 against 3.34 of the Burton).

The case for the defence was an attempt to undermine the character of Martin (the informant) described as a "tainted" witness with an ulterior motive by various friends and acquaintances of the accused. Prosecution counsel reminded the jury "that the case did not rest altogether on the evidence of Martin but he was corroborated by the chemist against whom no motive could be imputed". He also dwelt on the fact that no chemist had been called to dispute this evidence. The recorder summed up advising "what the jury had to consider was, was the beer sold Bass's Burton beer or not. Then, if it were not, they had to determine whether the prisoner "applied or caused to be applied" the trade mark of Messrs Bass representing that it was their beer. If they believed the evidence of Martin he thought they could come to no other conclusion that he did so; and therefore if they believed him it would be their duty to find the prisoner guilty". The jury after deliberating for 25 minutes found the prisoner guilty. The recorder in passing sentence praised Messrs Bass in



indicting the prisoner for trial at the sessions and not having the case disposed by summary conviction (as a misdemeanour). This would have been the only course of action prior to the passing of the 1862 Act. "You have made yourself liable to a term of two years imprisonment with or without hard labour at the discretion of the court. It is probable that you were not aware of the risk you ran in committing the offence but it is a fact you are liable to that punishment and liable to have all articles destroyed. However I shall not interfere with that part of the provision of the Act but I will sentence you to a term of imprisonment of six months without hard labour which I think will teach you and likewise others that this type of offence cannot be committed with impunity".



Foresters Arms, a beerhouse on the corner of Carlton Hill and Henry Street, photographed c.1960 before demolition

## Notes

1. Presumably in 1866 the Bass trademark was the famous 'red triangle'. It became the U.K.'s first registered trademark on January 1st 1876.
2. The beerhouse at 80 Carlton Hill was situated on the western corner of George Street Gardens, midway between the present John Street and Mighell Street, on the site now occupied by American Express. First recorded as such in 1848, (previously a grocers shop) by 1877 it was known as the 'Italian Arms' and survived as a beerhouse until 1954, the building being demolished a few years later. There were many recorded bankruptcies of beerhouse keepers, including Yeomans in August 1866.
3. It is not clear from the report how Yeomans came into possession of the labels, possibly when employed by Stone or when the two hogsheads of Bass were supplied by Stone.

## Short History of Beerhouses

The Government of the 1820s and 1830s were keen to promote beer drinking instead of spirits, especially gin. Widespread drunkenness through gin consumption was believed to be detrimental to the working class and this had led to the rise of the Temperance Society which campaigned for closure of the 'gin shops'. The former drink of the working man, beer, was taxed which meant the cost of beer could be prohibitive to the working classes despite that fact that beer was safer to drink than water.



Scene in a London Gin Palace

Water at this time was untreated and dangerous to drink. The Beerhouse Act of 1830 was introduced by the Duke of Wellington's Tory government. It abolished the beer tax, extended the opening hours of licensed public houses, taverns and alehouses to 18 hours a day. Previously it was 15 hours. These were subject to the control of the local justices and a licence was required. The Act also introduced the Beerhouse which could sell only beer (and cider). The opening hours under the Act could be



An early beerhouse

from 4am to 10pm weekdays and on Sundays between 10am and 1pm, and 3pm to 5pm. For a fee of 2 guineas payable to the local excise officer, *anyone* could brew and sell beer. The excise licence would state whether the beer could be consumed on the premises (beerhouse) or as off-sales only (beershop). Supervision of these



Interior of a beerhouse

establishments by local justices was severely curtailed which led to complaints by magistrates and local gentry, keen to control the working classes in their area. Beer production went through the roof. Large common brewers (the name for brewers who did not originally own pubs themselves) engaged travelling sales people to find new trading locations. These agents actively encouraged householders to open up a part of their property, usually the front parlour, in order to sell beer. By 1834 there were 160 beerhouses in Brighton, mainly in the poorer areas, and 108 licensed public houses. The beerhouses provided not only beer, but food, games and some even lodgings. Some sold beer alongside their shop wares. Beer would be brewed on the premises or purchased from brewers. Many beerhouses became the haunt of criminals and prostitutes. Concern over law and order resulted in the excise fee being raised to 3 guineas (1834) and property qualifications introduced in 1840 (Proof required that the applicant was the owner or occupier of the premises which were above a certain rateable value, being £11 in Brighton). But it was not until the Wine and Beer House Act of 1869 that a change in the law brought licensing of the beerhouses back under the control of the local justices. Many then closed, or were purchased by breweries and, most but not all, then changed to fully licensed public houses. Beerhouses continued up until the 1950's when finally a full licence was granted to those that had survived.

## **Allen West and the Severn Tunnel**

### **William ‘Pincher’ Martin**

In the 1950's and 60's Allen West, an electrical engineering, company was a major employer in Brighton with large factories in Lewes Road (now demolished and currently a car park opposite the barracks site) and Moulsecoomb Way. Here is a short note regarding my time spent at Allen West as a System Application Engineer, mainly involved in electric crane control an essential of many industries – steelworks dockyards etc.

The nearest I came to railway contracts was, when in 1960 the Company supplied the control gear for the Severn tunnel's 27 foot diameter extraction ventilating fan at Sudblook, on the Monmouthshire side of the River Severn. The tunnel built between 1873 and 1886 for the Great Western Railway was at the time the world's longest railway tunnel being 4 miles 624 yards long.

The original fan was 40 feet in diameter but was replaced in 1924 with one of 27 feet diameter by 9 feet wide driven by a horizontal tandem compound drop valve steam engine. We updated to electric drive (with duplicate control systems) this being a 50 h.p. drive motor. The mechanical side was provided by Mather & Platt of Manchester. The static inertia was unknown - however with the correct starting torque/time factor all was well – it eventually went off like a Catherine wheel. It was exciting to be there on the weekend of the changeover.



1924 Fan



Severn Tunnel beam engines

The steam driven pumps were also replaced by electric ones, which are required to deal with the ‘Great Spring’ in the tunnel which causes constant flooding. This underground spring caused serious delays during construction with the workings being inundated on two occasions. The eventual solution was to install six Cornish beam engines operating six pumps arranged around a 29 foot diameter shaft 183 feet deep. Steam was supplied by 12 Lancashire boilers. These pumps were replaced by 24 inch diameter submersible pumps fitted with a 250 h.p. motor to each pump capable of raising 200,000 gallons of water each hour, some 15 million gallons of the spring water being removed every 24 hours. Today there are a total of 14 pumps and four ventilation fans.



## 2017 AGM

A special celebration spread was provided for members attending the AGM in November



## **Recording of IA Sites**

### **Ron Martin**

This is an on-going project and will probably never be completely finished. The latest thoughts on achieving this are that it is only the Recording Co-ordinator who will have access to the database in order to place records thereon. Individual Recorders will produce the information and e-mail it to the Co-ordinator. This will only be in the form of several paragraphs which will relate to the ultimate fields on the database. I must stress that Recorders are only required to provide data to their own ability - the briefest of descriptions is better than nothing. Other Recorders can fill in the details at a later date.

There are three types of recording that need to be carried out, viz:-

1. Where members have researched one particular field, all that data should be transferred onto the database.
2. Where records were prepared 25 years ago, they should be checked and, where relevant, revision records produced.
3. Where certain areas have not been covered or where partial recording has been done these should be picked up. Herewith is a list of such areas;

#### **West Sussex**

Aldwick (formerly Worthing Rural District)  
Arundel (formerly Chichester Rural District)  
Bognor Regis  
Kingston (formerly Worthing Rural District)  
Rustington (formerly Worthing Rural District)  
Chichester  
East Dean (formerly Worthing Rural District)  
East Lavington (Formerly Midhurst District)  
Lurgashall (Formerly Midhurst District)  
Midhurst  
West Thorney (formerly Worthing Rural District)  
Westhampnett (formerly Chichester Rural District)  
Crawley (Part)  
Billingshurst (Formerly Horsham Rural District)  
North Horsham (Formerly Horsham Urban District)  
Steyning (Formerly Chancetonbury Rural District)  
Ansty and Staplefield (Formerly Cuckfield Rural District)  
Ashurst Wood (Formerly East Grinstead Urban District)  
Hassocks (Formerly Cuckfield Rural District)  
Hurstpierpoint (Formerly Cuckfield Rural District)  
Worthing (Part)



## East Sussex

Brighton & Hove City (Part)

Eastbourne

Hastings

Lewes (Part)

Seaford

Tarring Neville (formerly Chailey Rural District)

Penhurst (Formerly Battle Rural District)

Uckfield (Part)

This is a very worth-while exercise – the mere action of looking at individual buildings and delving into their history is one which gives a great deal of satisfaction. If any members are interested would they please get in touch with me either by telephone 01273 271330 or by e-mail: martin.ronald@ntlworld.com and I will send you a copy of the protocol.

Your do not need to be an expert either in IA or on buildings. The only requirement is a computer with e-mail access, a digital camera and enthusiasm.



Following up the piece on Coade Stone  
in *Newsletter* 176.

In St. Nicholas Churchyard, Brighton,  
the tomb of Anna Maria Crouch is  
interesting as it is a mixture of parts  
the main tomb is recorded as 1806  
and marked Coade and Sealy.

The urn on top is marked Croggon,  
so is after 1821.

Listed at Grade II.

It is located close to  
the entrance opposite  
Mount Zion Place.

Like so many monuments in  
churchyards and cemeteries it is in need  
of some TLC. not least a clean up.

Used by permission of the James Gray  
collection of the Regency Society

*Report from the Brighton Argus*

## **Brighton builders rescue mysterious 91-year-old black cat**

**Gemma Hicks-Logan**

Local building developers have had an unusual 91-year-old black cat to take care of whilst renovating one of Brighton's most iconic buildings.

Lace House is a grand building tucked behind the seafront hotels, at the foot of The Lanes, just across from the Victorian Fountain of the Old Steine. The 18th Century building has been an important part of Brighton's history and has been used as a library, Post Office, and even a Jaguar show room.

Since the building was used as a luxury car showroom, and for nearly 100 years, a black cat has crawled the East side of the building, sparking much speculation about where it came from and why it's still there. Whilst renovating the building to create new luxury apartments, Lace Wilson Properties Ltd have needed to take careful measures to remove and restore the black cat in order to keep it in its rightful home and have therefore taken time to learn more about the history of the cat. The mysterious black cat appeared in 1926, one year after Newmans & Co. opened their Jaguar showroom in the building. Some local historians felt that the cat was perhaps a subtle nod to the jaguar itself, or even simply a humorous architect's trademark. However, in an interview with the late George Taylor, the former apprentice of the building firm that installed the cat, it was confirmed otherwise.



The sad remains of the original cat

"That's my cat all right" George exclaimed, as he recalled standing on a high ladder for some time, holding the cat in place. His boss Alfie Martin, a jobbing builder and plumber, was instructed by the Jaguar store owner to create something to frighten the seagulls and in 1926, 16-year-old George helped to drill a hole in the side of the building and cement the clay and metal armature sculpture in place. Sadly, the original cat is somewhat eroded due to its age, but Lace Wilson Properties have commissioned Lewes Sculptor Susie Hartley to mould a resin version of the cat based on its remains and archive photographs. The cat will be returned to the exact spot it has been in since 1926 in line with the rest of the sensitive renovation of the building.

Mark Wilson, Director of Lace Wilson Properties Ltd said: "We see the cat as a very important part of the building and feel it is pivotal to keep the character of a property when we are developing it. The Jaguar showroom would have been very impressive in its day and shows that the Old Steine in Brighton was a thriving commercial area. We'd also like each of the new owners of the apartments to have something unique to refer to about the building that they're going to live in."

The new cat is to be officially unveiled on Saturday 4th November at midday, followed by a photo opportunity until 1pm with the original black cat. Those who wish to attend will also be treated to a sneak preview of the apartments. Please go to Lace House, 39-40 Old Steine, Brighton, BN1 1NH.

Lace House will consist of seven one-bedroom and two two-bedroom luxury apartments. The apartments are to be finished to a very high specification; the communal entrance will reflect the splendour of the building and have the original cat mounted in a presentation case on the entrance wall. As well as a new cat, the building has been fully renovated inside and out and fitted with a completely new roof ahead of the apartments being finished and the launch event in January 2018.

[www.theargus.co.uk/homes/property/news/15630675.Brighton\\_builders\\_rescue\\_mysterious\\_91\\_year\\_old\\_black\\_cat/](http://www.theargus.co.uk/homes/property/news/15630675.Brighton_builders_rescue_mysterious_91_year_old_black_cat/)



The replacement model by sculptor Susie Hartley

## Mystery Photo - Update



Used by permission of the James Gray collection of the Regency Society

The mystery image in *Newsletter 176* was of some of the cast iron plates from a former era of transport, that of Hackney Carriages that used to wait in Terminus Road to the west of Brighton Station, hence **Hackney Carriage Stand**. They had to would wait to be called onto the forecourt.

I have taken the opportunity to show that so little is changed in Terminus Road - just the form of propulsion!. The cast plates are just visible on the wall at the right

*Please keep you eyes open for unusual features on your travels, or it may be something you pass every day, but the rest of us are unfamiliar with.*

*I am always looking for examples of our IA heritage. If possible, let me have a picture, either for this feature or to provide inspiration for a future article(s).*

## Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society

- President : Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey,  
Home Farm, Heron's Ghyll, Uckfield
- Chairman : John S. F. Blackwell, E-mail johnblackwell@ntlworld.com  
21 Hythe Road, Brighton BN1 6JR (01273 557674)
- General Secretary and Newsletter Editor : Martin B. Snow,  
E-mail martin@snowing.co.uk  
32 Orchard Avenue, Worthing BN14 7PY  
(01903 208975 & 07836 675472)
- Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Archivist : Peter J. Holtham,  
E-mail pandjholtham@virginmedia.com  
12 St. Helens Crescent, Hove BN3 8EP (01273 413790)
- Chief Editor : Dr. Brian Austen, E-mail brian.austen@zen.co.uk  
1 Mercedes Cottages, St. Johns Road,  
Haywards Heath RH16 4EH (01444 413845)
- Programme Co-ordinator : M. H. Dawes, E-mail malcolm.dawes@btinternet.com  
52 Rugby Road, Brighton BN1 6EB (01273 561867)
- Recording Co-ordinator : R. G. Martin, E-mail martin.ronald@ntlworld.com  
42 Falmer Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton BN2 8FG  
(01273 271330)
- Committee : M. H. Dawes Mrs. Julia Edge A. H. J. Green  
C. C. Hawkins P. S. Hicks Miss. J. O'Hara  
T. P. A. Ralph R. Taylor R. Vernon  
R. L. Wilson

Website : [www.sussexias.co.uk](http://www.sussexias.co.uk)

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Subscribing to the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society gives automatic membership to the Sussex Mills Group

The Sussex Mills Group also produces a *Newsletter* that is sent to members with this *Newsletter*





### **Mystery Photo**

Taken on an IA tour of Sussex by a member who does not recall the location or use of the building, a watermill is a possibility given other images on the film. Can any member identify this and aid the memory of the member who will be un-named!



Severn Tunnel fan house at Sudbrook in 2001 (*Chris Allen*)

