



Coldean

Community & Church Magazine
Spring 2021



Parish Contacts

St Mary Magdalen Church

Rev Betsy Gray-Hammond 01273 601 854

Lay Reader

Marian Framroze 01273 686 981

Churchwardens

John Phillips 01273 683 835

Paul Simmons 01273 725 368

Deputy Churchwarden

Jennie Goatley 07947 859 509

Treasurer

John Phillips 01273 683 835

Hall Secretary

Vacant

Magazine Editor

John Phillips 01273 683 835

jrj44bevendean@gmail.com

Letter from the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

It has been so long since we have met face to face and been able to come to church to worship together.

Life, spiritual and physical has been so different in the past year and you could not be blamed for wondering where all of this is leading to and whether our world will ever be the same again? Well in a way I hope not, don't get me wrong, I want to get back to seeing all of your smiling happy faces and give thanks for all who are still with us and those whom we will no longer see.

As I write we are almost halfway through Lent , our church is working as hard as ever to feed those who are finding life difficult for one reason or another and supporting those who would like a

hot meal a least once a week. People have worked, voluntarily throughout this past year and it shows no signs of slowing yet. All of this has reminded me constantly of two special friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha and how important it is that we always have a balance of work and prayer and how action and word must always be offered together. It would be of little use to tell a hungry person that you will offer prayers for them if you are not willing to also offer them food; nobody will be able to enrich their relationship with God if they are always worrying about where the next meal will come from.

This year has also shown us how we can still fulfil our spiritual needs and how to improve our relationship with our heavenly things that had become almost mundane have suddenly taken on new meaning.

Prayers for the person struggling along the street.

Prayers for each road and the woods as I walk my dogs.

Making the Ash Wednesday Bookmarks became a very prayerful exercise. Simply sitting quietly making the sign of the cross on each one, offering prayers of thanks to God and to Christ for his supreme sacrifice.

And so it goes on there really is a prayer for every action, every meeting, every person.

We have also gained so much from our renewed and strengthened links with the wider community and I have been blessed to be able to get to know people so much better as we have worked alongside each other for the common good of all.

As we approach the glorious dawn of Easter Morning, please be assured that each and every one of you are in my heart and my prayers.

I am looking forward to meeting up again very soon.

Stay safe and stay blessed.

Love and prayers to you all,

Revd. Betsy

Benefice of Moulsecoomb Holy Week and Eastertide Services

Date	Day	Time	Location
25/03/21	Thursday	19.30	Holy Nativity
28/03/21	Palm Sunday	10.00	St Andrews
29/03/21	Monday	9.15	St Mary Magdalen
29/03/21	Monday	19.30	St Mary Magdalen
30/03/21	Tuesday	9.15	St Mary Magdalen
30/03/21	Tuesday	19.30	St Mary Magdalen
31/03/21	Wednesday	9.15	St Mary Magdalen
31/03/21	Wednesday	10.00	St Mary Magdalen
01/04/21	Thursday	9.15	St Mary Magdalen
01/04/21	Thursday	19.30	St Andrews
01/04/21	Thursday	19.30	St Mary Magdalen
02/04/21	Friday	14.00	St Andrews
03/04/21	Saturday	19.30	St Andrews
04/04/21	Easter Sunday	5.45	St Mary Magdalen at Dawn
04/04/21	Easter Sunday	10.00	St Mary Magdalen
04/04/21	Easter Sunday	10.00	St Andrews
11/04/21	Sunday	10.00	St Andrews
14/04/21	Wednesday	10.00	St Mary Magdalen
18/04/21	Sunday	9.30	St Mary Magdalen
18/04/21	Sunday	10.00	St Andrews

All services will be made available over the Internet.

If the present Coronavirus restrictions are lifted as expected both Churches will reopen for services on Sunday 18th April 2021.

Some Easter Traditions

Dyeing Easter Eggs

The tradition of decorating eggs of all kinds may go all the way back to the ancient pagans. Eggs represent rebirth and life, to celebrate the new season, people coloured eggs and gave them to friends and family as gifts.

According to some legends, Mary or Mary Magdalene could be responsible for this tradition. Mary brought eggs with her to Jesus' crucifixion, and blood from his wounds fell on the eggs, colouring them red.

Hot Cross Buns

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when people started making hot cross buns. It is said the tradition started in the 12th century with a monk who was inspired to mark his rolls to celebrate Good Friday.

The first written record we have of them dates back to an issue of Poor Robin's Almanac from the 1730s: "Good Friday comes this Month, the old woman runs, with one or two a Penny, hot cross Bunsns."



Sunrise Services

As the story goes, Mary opened Jesus's tomb at dawn on Easter morning to find it empty. In honour of the occasion, many churches hold services at sunrise so parishioners can experience the event similar to how it happened. The first one on record was held in 1732 in Saxony, Germany, by a group of young men. The next year, the entire congregation attended the early-morning ceremony, and soon, the sunrise service had caught on across the country.

Why do baptismal fonts have eight sides?

Will Hazlewood, the Bishop of Lewes in one of his lent discussions with **Ruth Bushyager** the Bishop of Horsham said seven sides of the font represent the 7 days of creation while the eighth says something about us being born into eternity.

Fonts are often placed at or near the entrance to a church's nave to remind believers of their baptism as they enter the church to pray, since the rite of baptism served as their initiation into the Church.



Octagonal Font in St Andrews Church at Moulsecoomb

In many churches of the Middle Ages and Renaissance there was a special chapel or even a separate building for housing the baptismal fonts, called a baptistery. Both fonts and baptisteries were often octagonal, eight-sided, fonts becoming more common from the 13th century and the rule from the 14th century.

Saint Ambrose wrote that fonts and baptisteries were octagonal "because on the eighth day, by rising, Christ loosens the bondage of death and receives the dead from their graves". Saint Augustine similarly described the eighth day as "everlasting hallowed by the resurrection of Christ".

John Phillips

Coldean Kitchen and Foodbank

So it's been almost a year that we have been cooking meals for the vulnerable and also running the foodbank and have had some lovely feedback which is always nice.

We have cooked a big variety of hot meals, very often the meat and many other things were kindly donated by Manish. Not only that, but for a long time we had his very much appreciated help with the cooking and cleaning.

Much fun was had and many a topic covered 😊 this is an ongoing and much needed thing we do and any help that could possibly be offered either time, driving, money / donations of food all as important as one and other and very much appreciated.

Sadly this was the last week of cooking with my partner in crime Sue who I will miss greatly but I wish her and Jerry well and lots of love in their new home wherever it may be.

The Foodbank has grown so much and proves that poverty has always existed in our area!

In recent weeks we have seen an increase again in people needing help, so we know that this is one thing we need to keep going. We know how very grateful and relieved people are that we here.

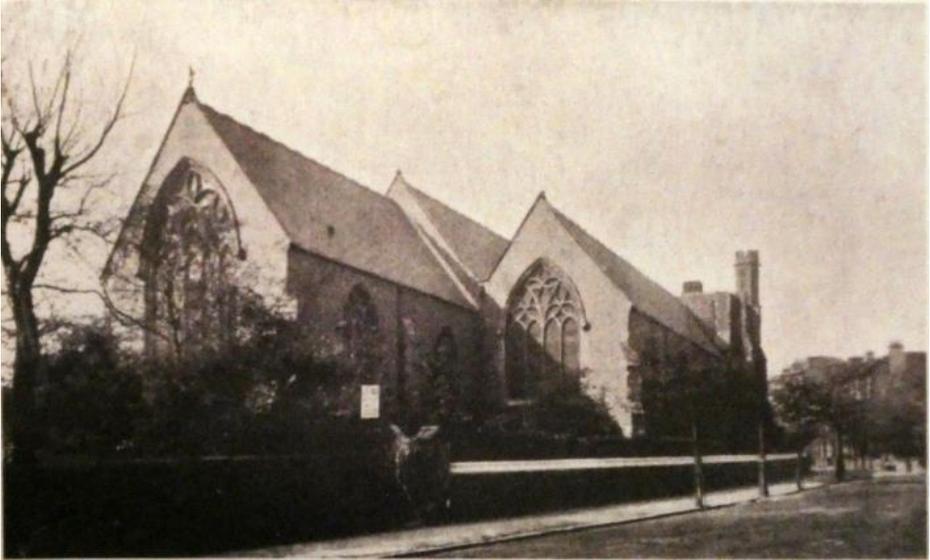
Again we have a brilliant group of volunteers that give their time to make up food parcels and deliver them to the most vulnerable. We then have a walk in for many others.

Thank you to all the people that regularly donate food, cleaning products and pet food.

It has all been very well received and appreciated.

Erica Verrall

All Saints Church Compton Avenue



All Saints Church in Compton Avenue Brighton in 1904 © ESRO

The coming of the Railway caused Brighton to increase rapidly in size, especially towards the north and west of the town, and in the vicinity of the Central Station.

Many men were employed by the Railway Company, and numerous small houses were erected for them to live in.

In the late 1840s the Ecclesiastical Authorities saw that something needed to be done to meet the spiritual needs of this increasing population. The Rev. H. M. Wagner, who was then Vicar of Brighton, with the help of a band of enthusiastic workers, secured a site at the north end of Church Hill, and appointed an architect to design a Church for the new district.

Richard Cromwell Carpenter was the architect chosen to prepare the plans. The building consisted of a large chancel and a nave with north and south aisles. The seating capacity of this space was approximately one thousand. The material chosen for the exterior walls was split flint, with Caen stone dressings.

This was an unfortunate selection, as Caen stone does not stand up well to the English climate, and by 1915 the Church already needed repairing.

However in the interior the stone was used with excellent effect. The window at the east end of the north aisle had very beautiful tracery.

The great east window has our Lord in the centre light, the other four lights being occupied by the Evangelists.

The remaining coloured window at the west end of the south aisle represents our Lord healing the sick.

The north doorway was in cinquefoil design with rolls of stone for future embellishment, which was never done. The carving of the columns around the doorway giving access to the south aisle was completed as can be seen in the photograph.

The Altar Cross was of a simple and chaste design. The reading desk was a simple structure in English oak.

The pulpit was decorated in style, and suitable for construction in stone, but built of wood, stained to look like mahogany. The reredos was of carved oak, treated in blue and gold. On either side of the altar were oak panels, which gave warmth and colour to the east end of the Church. The lectern was an oak eagle of simple design and the font made of stone was in keeping with the Church.



Interior of All Saints Church in Compton Avenue c1853 © Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove

The organ, was, supplied by William M. Hedgeland, of Charles Street, Manchester Square, London, and is said to have cost eight hundred and fifty pounds.

On Friday, the 6th of August, 1852, the Church was opened in the presence of the Lord Bishop of Chichester, (Ashurst Gilbert D.D.) and many of the Brighton clergy. The Vicar first read the licence to the assembled congregation, who were described by one local journal as “respectable and devout.”

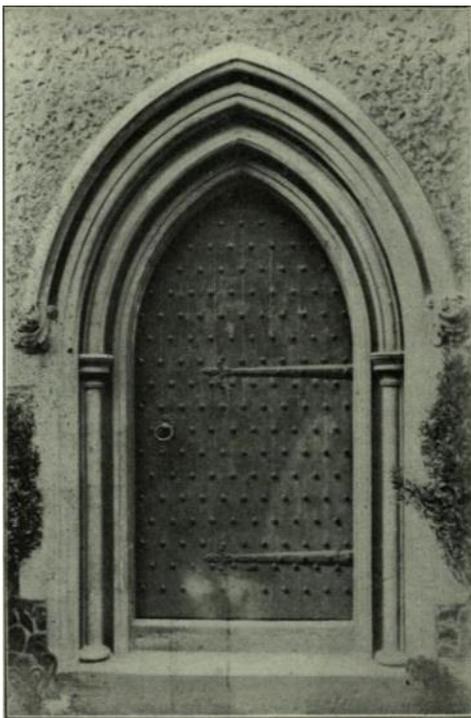
When All Saints’ was opened, a debt amounting to £3,400 was still owed for the building of the church. This large sum appears to have been paid within thirteen months, as on the 29th September 1853, the Bishop of Chichester consecrated the Church.

On the 16th of February, 1917 an announcement in the London Gazette stated that a District Chapelry was to be assigned to the Church of All Saints in Brighton.

In 1945 a faculty to rearrange the seating was granted while two years later a faculty was granted for a new East Window.

In 1949 faculties were granted for a re-arrangement of the Sanctuary and High Altar by the bringing the Altar forward, an alteration of the levels, the removal of the Choir Stalls, the hanging of a Rood between the Chancel and the Nave and extending the Chancel by placing Altar Rails in the Nave.

At the same time permission was granted for the installation of electric lighting and heating.



All Saints Church South West
Doorway © ESRO

Sadly the Sussex County Magazine published in 1952 announced that the church of All Saints in Brighton was to close and the parish was to be amalgamated with St Michael.

The final marriage service took place at All Saints on 10 October 1952 when Donald Alexander Hirst from Clacton on Sea in Essex married Rosalind Violet Eleanor Hyland who lived in Montpelier Crescent, Brighton.



All Saints Church in Compton Avenue, interior view towards the Sanctuary c1905 © ESRO

The final church service was held on 31st January 1954 when Holy Communion was celebrated. A note written in the register states, "After the 8 o'clock Celebration All Saint's congregation went to St Michael's where all future services will be held."

When demolition of the church started the flints from the exterior walls were salvaged by the church authorities with the aim of using them in a new church being built in the east of the county.

The Church was in use for just over 101 years before it was demolished.

John Phillips

The Highs and Lows of Covid Lockdown

In January 2020 my sister and I had to arrange for my mum to move into a Nursing home due to her worsening dementia, recent falls and inability to live independently. My emotions during the first couple of months she was there, swung wildly from relief that she was finally being looked after 24/7 to terrible guilt that we had moved her out of the home where she had lived happily for the past 60 years. Not that mum was aware of that as her memories had drifted back to her younger days when she lived elsewhere.

We were allowed to visit Mum as often as we liked. We usually went with our husbands as a three way conversation proved much easier and on a couple of occasions when Pam and I visited mum on our own she became agitated when it was time for us to leave which we found very upsetting. The trouble is she would ask for us to take her 'home' but home for her was a reality that no longer existed, except in her mind.

When Covid 19 hit, my mum's Nursing home was one of the first to be heavily infected and they closed their doors to all visitors a week before the UK Lockdown which began on 23rd March 2020. This meant that we weren't allowed to visit my mum for her 94th birthday on 18th March which made us very sad. However, this wasn't the worse news that we had as by 21st March, we had been advised that only 6 residents of the home were NOT showing any symptoms of Covid. My mum had mild symptoms but when the government finally tested just 3 random residents, her test was, thankfully, negative. Unfortunately, a total of 4 residents died from Covid during this time.

My son, Steven, who normally works and lives in a bedsit in London, was told that he could work from home in early March and made the wise decision to come home to us. I'm so glad that he did as he is still here a year later and has enjoyed getting to know his niece and nephew a lot better as well as being able to support his sister, Elaine, with HIIT sessions over Zoom.

During the first lockdown Alan and I threw ourselves into painting and decorating at home and we also made the most of the good weather and went out for a local walk almost every day. We didn't have time to be bored as every day we had a job planned to do which included painting every internal door in the house and replacing all of the door handles which was a major task!! We also tidied the garden up and planted some flowers.

In the interval between the two lockdowns it was nice to be able to get back to my hobbies which included singing, playing bowls and water aerobics. Alan and I also enjoyed a few meals out during the 'Eat out to help out' campaign as one of the things we missed most was eating out. At the moment I have to cook for 3 almost every single day, unless we get a takeaway, which I find quite a chore!

In August/September we decided to try and move to take advantage of the increase in the stamp duty allowance and put our house on the market. We found a buyer but sadly, despite having an offer accepted on a bungalow, we were later gazumped and after a few more weeks of fruitless searches decided to cut our losses and stay put! We also had a last minute break in Hastings staying in a private house with our family.

We had been looking after our grandson, Rowan, aged 1, on Wednesdays but he developed a nasty cough and a Covid test proved positive plunging Elaine and family into quarantine and heightening my own worries about catching Covid because I was prone to very bad chest infections. Luckily, no-one else caught it and Rowan was not seriously ill.

Christmas came and went and it was lovely to spend some quality time with our family but it was a short and sweet interlude because of the restrictions which continued immediately after. Alan and I resumed our childminding for Rowan and also had Amelie once a week to assist with the home schooling which took up two days of our week but the diabolical weather during January and February has made the second lockdown so much harder to deal with. This time round a daily walk has been challenging due to the rain and the world (our world) seems to have shrunk. My get up and go attitude that I had during the first lockdown has waned dramatically. I have watched far too much television and feel lethargic and listless. I yearn for some kind of normality and want to resume my life and go back to enjoying my retirement.

On 12th February, Alan and I were relieved to receive our first Covid vaccine and I now feel more confident when looking after the grandchildren and look forward to receiving the second dose!

My mum has been in care for over a year and will soon be celebrating her 95th birthday, the second one in lockdown! Once again, we will not be visiting in person (we could if we had a test, waited ½ hour in the car and wore full PPE but I just don't feel comfortable doing this). I just want to be able to walk in and give my mum a hug without any restrictions.

Lockdown has been very hard in some respects but I will be eternally grateful for the care that my mum has received during this time and consider myself lucky that, being retired and having a regular income, we have not had to face the job worries and financial struggles that have affected so many.

Mary Violet

Bevendean Hospital – Part 1

Early History

In early 1881 the Master of the Workhouse at Elm Grove informed Brighton Corporation Sanitary Committee that there was a need for more accommodation for smallpox victims. There were only five places available at Elm Grove.

On 31 May 1881 the Sanitary Committee decided that the Borough Surveyor was to erect a temporary building to be used as a sanatorium on part of the land acquired by the council for this purpose off Bevendean Road.

This resolution called for the wards to be built for at least forty patients and also required the Medical Officer of Health to report on the staff that would be needed for the Sanatorium.

The land was purchased by the Corporation in 1881 for £5,000 subject to restrictions preventing the Corporation from erecting buildings for the infectious sick except on a limited portion of the site. These restrictions were removed in 1895 by a payment of £1,000.

A smallpox epidemic in London during the year 1881 caused Brighton Council to complete the project as quickly as possible.

Patching and Sons, were employed to build the hospital, and the Council borrowed £15,000 to pay for the work. The first stage of the project was for three main buildings of wooden construction with felt covered roofs. The 3 buildings consisted of an administration block and two wards. The work was completed in ten weeks with the contractors charging an extra £100 for meeting the deadline date.

Council minutes from September 1881 recorded a list of patients admitted and details of the staff appointed.

The staff consisted of a medical officer, matron, porter, two day nurses, two night nurses and two maids. Initially the medical officer also worked at the Workhouse in Elm Grove.

The Master and Matron a Mr and Mrs Eden were employed on salaries of £2.10s per week with uniform and rations provided. The nurses were engaged at a salary of £1.10s per week with food provided. A cook is also mentioned at a salary of £25 per year.

In December 1881 the question of heating the buildings was considered and a water heating system was selected with 4 inch diameter hot water pipes fitted round the walls of the buildings and a boiler under the kitchen ward.

An ambulance for the hospital was requested in the winter of 1881 since the use of the ambulance from the Workhouse was not satisfactory.

Further improvements were made over the next two years, with a corrugated iron building, used for a Health Exhibition in Brighton in 1883, being used as another ward. A building was obtained to use as a store room for linen and in 1883 a telephone line was laid between the Town Hall and the hospital. The number of people listed as using the hospital was very small at this time.

By January 1885 there was an increasing need for repair and refurbishment of the buildings. The number of patients being treated had increased and a number of extensions and improvements had been made including a disinfecting station, a porter's lodge, and a mortuary.

By October 1893 the need for many more repairs and the provision of more accommodation for the patients had become urgent.

The Brighton Council then decided that the Borough Surveyor was to present plans for a new hospital as soon as possible.

There was a problem regarding the extension or rebuilding of the hospital on the site off Bevendean Road because of the restrictive covenant on the land which prevented the building of accommodation for the infectious sick except on a small part of the land. After looking for other sites for a new Sanatorium the council agreed to buy out the restrictive covenant on the site. On the 7 October 1894 Alderman Blaker wrote to the Town Clerk accepting

the sum of £1,000 for the release of his interest in the restrictive covenant on the land.

He agreed to spend the money as follows: -

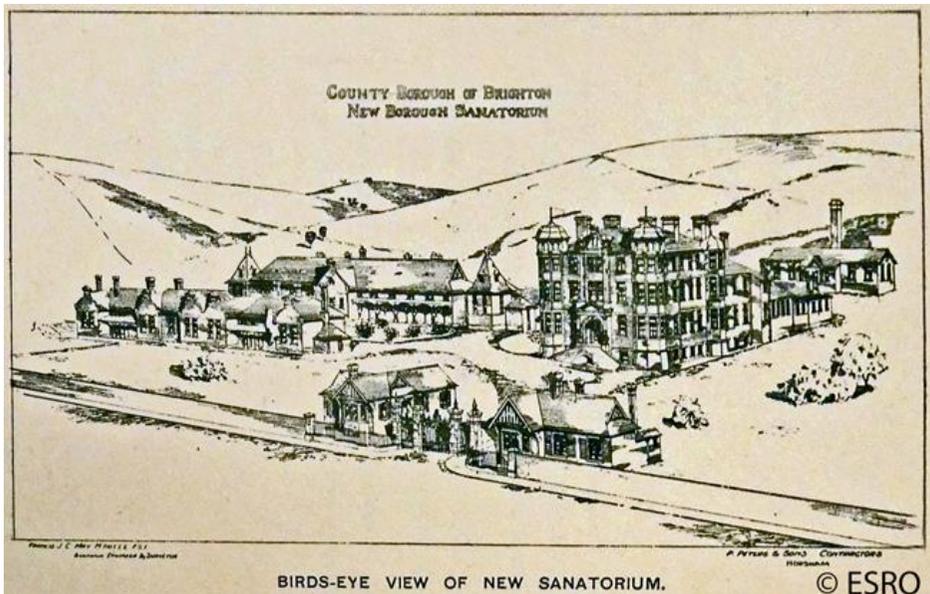
£400 for a clock & tower in Blaker Park.

£600 for the laying out and improvement of the facilities in the park.

Blaker Park covers almost four and a half acres between Preston Drove and Stanford Avenue in Brighton. It was given to the town by Sir John Blaker in 1893. The clock tower and the park still exist in 2021.

By October 1894 the Sanitary Committee approved plans for the following new buildings: -

- An administrative building
- A one ward building
- An isolation block
- A discharge block
- A porter's lodge



A contemporary drawing of the Bevendean Sanatorium shows the buildings which comprised the first phase, and the ground contours in 1898.

By September 1896, the Sanitary Committee had accepted a tender from Messrs Peters & Son of Horsham for the new building at a cost of £19,775, with work starting in November 1896.

The Brighton Evening Argus of 12 April 1899 stated that in 1897 there were 450 patients, 74 with typhoid, 103 with diphtheria and 265 with scarlet fever in the Bevendean Sanatorium housed in the wooden huts.

Opening of the New Buildings

The enlarged hospital was opened on Thursday 27 October 1898 by the Mayor, Alderman Sir John Blaker. The Mayor said that the buildings had been paid for and would be used by the public for the benefit of all classes.

The British Medical Journal for 5 November 1898 gives the following description of the new buildings.

“The buildings are built with red kiln facing bricks, relieved by Portland stone sills, lintels, copings, etc. The roofs of the entrance lodge, discharge block, and ward pavilions are covered with Broseley tiles; the roof of the administrative block is covered with Bangor slates. All the external walls are built hollow. The drainage of each building is entirely disconnected from the drainage of any other building. Each set of drains being also separately ventilated by its own special inlet and outlet ventilation services.

All the buildings are made as nearly fireproof as is practicable. Thus in all the buildings, except the ward pavilions, the floors consist of wood blocks laid on cement floors. In the ward pavilions the floors consist of terrazzo on the top of the concrete floor.

The buildings throughout are lit by electricity from the Corporation mains. All the buildings are connected with each other by a private telephone.

On the south side of the entrance is the porter's lodge, containing 1 living room, a bedroom, scullery, and kitchen.

The discharge lodge is on the south side of the entrance. It contains undressing-room, bath-room, dressing-room, and waiting-room for friends. In this building patients take their final bath before joining their friends.

The administrative building has a half basement containing six living and bedrooms for men servants, kitchen, scullery, and stores. This has a separate external entrance, and owing to the steep slope of the land is scarcely underground. The ground floor comprises visitors' waiting room, matron's sitting room, matron's office, nurses' dining room, nurses' sitting room, servants' room, doctors' sitting room, dispensary, bacteriological laboratory (with photographic room and lavatories attached), two linen stores, general store room, scullery. On the first floor are eighteen single bedrooms and two double bedrooms, with bathroom, lavatories, etc.

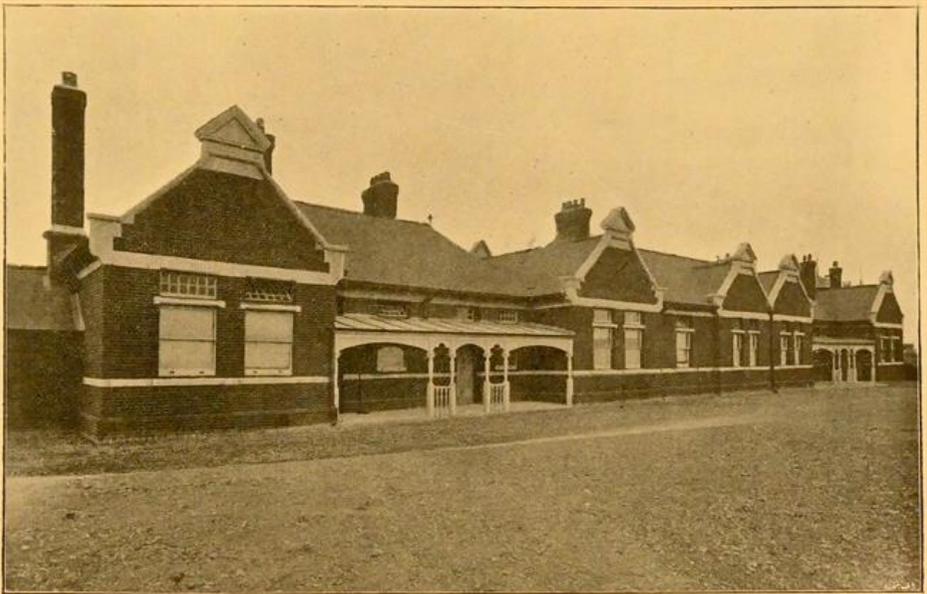


ELEVATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK (West and North Fronts).

© ESRO

A disinfecting station had been erected, fitted with two steam disinfecting apparatus. The contract price of the new buildings was £19,775. It was proposed eventually to supplement the present new accommodation by three additional pavilions.”

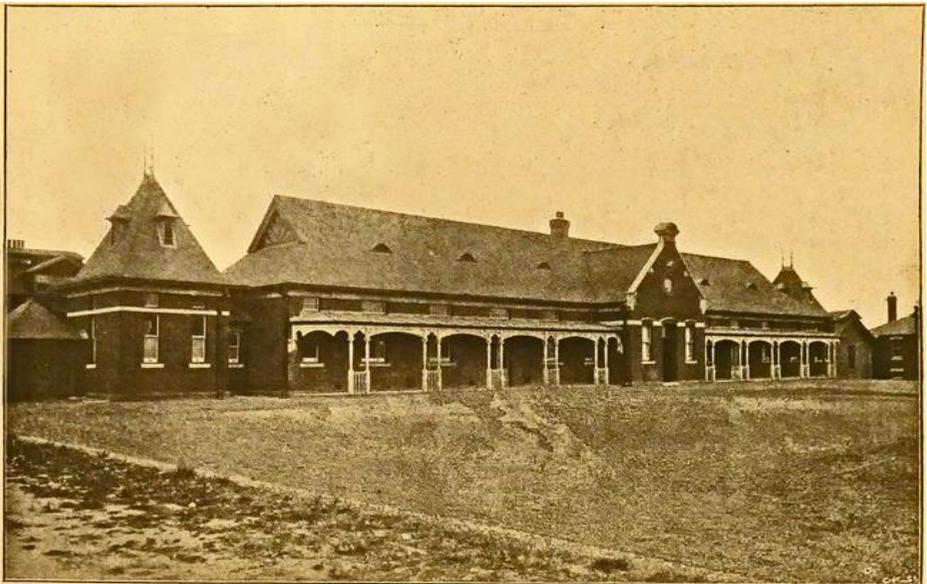
The porter's lodge on the south side of the entrance gates contained a living room, one bedroom, a kitchen and a scullery. The patients' discharge block on the north side of the gates had a bathroom, undressing and dressing rooms, and a waiting room for the patients' friends.



ELEVATION OF ISOLATION PAVILION (West Front).

© ESRO

The isolation pavilion in 1898



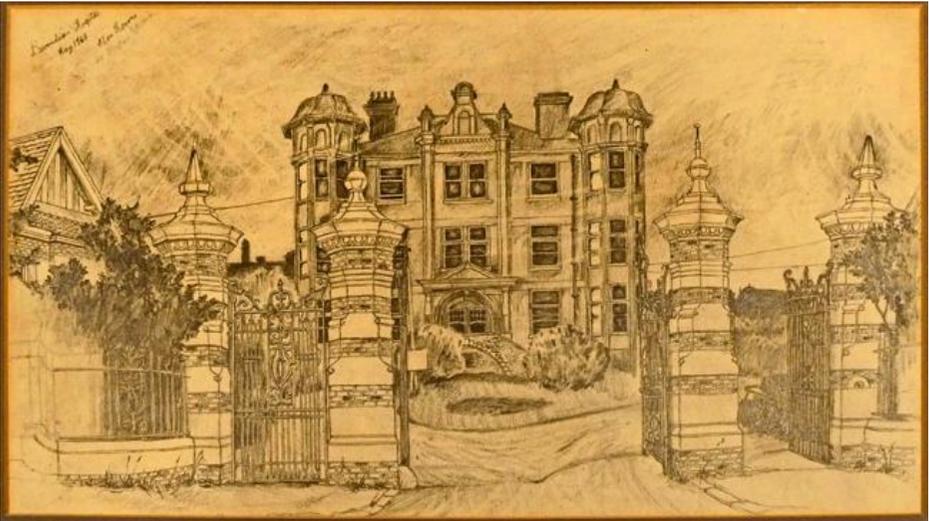
ELEVATION OF SCARLET FEVER PAVILION (West Front).

© ESRO

The Scarlet Fever Pavilion in 1898

At the time of opening the buildings on the site consisted of: -

1. The Administration Block had four floors, a basement and ground floor for administration; while the first and second floors had bedrooms for some of the staff.
2. An Isolation Pavilion later Ward 3 with just one floor.
3. A Scarlet Fever Pavilion later Ward 4 with just one floor.
4. A Disinfection Station behind the Administration Building.
5. A Discharge Lounge on the north side of the entrance gates.
6. The Porters Lodge on the south side of the entrance gates.



This drawing of Bevendean Hospital was created by a young asthmatic patient Alan Morris in May 1968 and given to Ronald A. Stank as per the dedication in the top left hand corner of the picture. It was subsequently used as a Christmas card for the Hospital.

Brighton Council was not allowed to have a ward for smallpox cases at Bevendean in the late 1890s, as the Sanatorium was too close to built-up areas.

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.

To be continued in a future edition of the magazine.

Trug Making, a Reserve Occupation

During the First and Second World War, trugs were considered so important to the agricultural industry that trug-making was a reserved occupation.

This meant trug makers were not called up for active service and could carry on their craft to support farmers.



After the Second World War things altered and traditional farms underwent a massive change with mechanisation. Trugs were no longer needed to collect eggs, sow grain or pick up vegetables as it was now done by machine. This was when trug makers turned to the gardening industry to keep their craft alive.

The Sussex Trug became the must have accessory for the dedicated gardener.

In the 1820's Thomas Smith of Herstmonceux invented the Sussex Trug. Taking an ancient idea dating back to Anglo Saxon times, Thomas redesigned the historic "trog" and in so doing he created a part of the English gardening scene that is now world famous.

The "trog" was a wooden vessel hewn from solid timber in the shape of the round coracle boat that the Anglo Saxons used for their daily business. Because of the way these "troggs" were made they were very heavy. They were used by Sussex farms to measure grain and liquids and used several sizes for different measures.

Thomas Smith designed a lightweight basket, using Sweet Chestnut and Cricket Bat Willow. He moved his lounge and kitchen to the first floor of his home, Hormes House at Windmill

Hill, Herstmonceux, and converted the ground floor into his workshop. Hormes House can still be seen on the main road through the village - sporting the Royal Warrant Crest on its eastern face.

The Romans introduced Sweet Chestnut into Southern England from Spain and the climate in Sussex and Kent was ideal for its rapid growth. Thomas selected the Chestnut to make his handles and rims as it splits easily and, being a hardwood, is resistant to rot. The handle and rim pieces are steamed to make them supple before being bent round formers to produce the finished handles and rims which are then nailed together with copper nails to produce the frame.

For the boards of his Trug he selected Cricket Bat Willow which, because Herstmonceux is right on the edge of the Pevensey Marshes, was in plentiful supply on this rich growing ground.

He split the Willow using wedges and sledgehammers before sawing them into slats by hand in a sawing pit, and then hand shaving these slats to form the boards of his Trug. These boards were light in weight and perfectly complimented the strong Chestnut frame. They were fixed using solid copper tacks and the legs were finally added, using copper clout nails. The larger Trugs were not given feet but had two straps fixed from the handles underneath the boards to give extra strength.

When Thomas made his trugs there was a ready market for them on farms and in gardens throughout England. However, when in 1851, he attended The Great Exhibition held in The Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London; Queen Victoria visited his stand and was so impressed by his product that she ordered some personally as gifts for members of the Royal Family.

Legend has it that when he returned to his workshops in Herstmonceux, mindful of the debt which he owed to Queen Victoria for his new found patronage, he made the Trugs entirely

by himself. He then walked the 60 miles to Buckingham Palace in London, with his brother, pushing a handcart to deliver his prized Trugs in pristine condition.

He sold more to the Queen and was awarded the Royal Warrant, hence the term Royal Sussex Trug. Thomas was also awarded a Gold Medal and Certificate of Merit at the show.

Over the years the Smith family continued to run their business in Herstmonceux. They faced competition from many other copycat companies which sprang up in Kent and Sussex and even as far west as Somerset. After the First World War the Smith's moved from their original base in Hormes House to a redundant Army Barracks further west in the village, but still on the main road; and it is here that they made Thomas's famous product until 2003. The wood and corrugated iron building meant as a temporary home for the British Army gave visitors a step back in History rarely experienced elsewhere.

John Phillips

Canal from Brighton to Lewes via Bevendean

In 1825 there was a proposal for a canal from Lewes to Brighthelmston, which would have left the river at Lewes, rising through 29 locks, and required a 1.5 mile (2.4 km) tunnel to reach Brighton.

The route of the canal as planned would have run nearly to the top of the valley called Cranedean, which is south of the A27 and Housedean Farm.

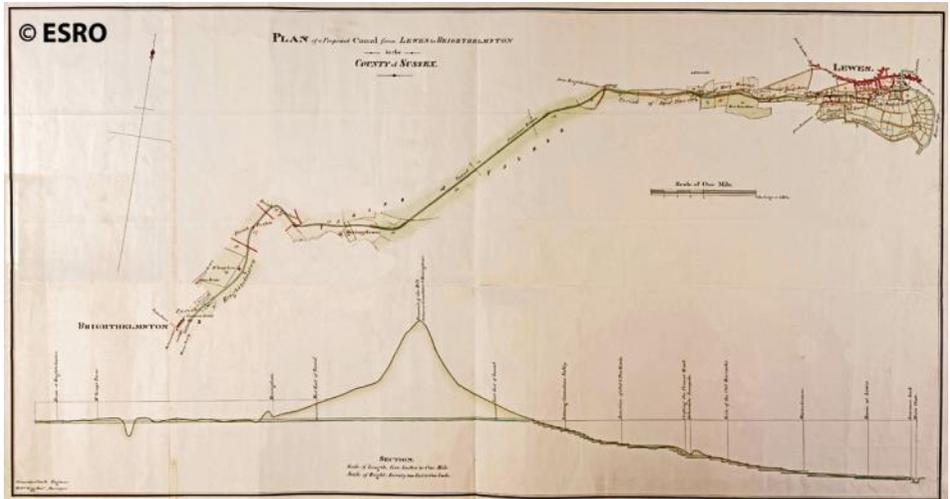
From there the canal would have gone through a one mile and a half tunnel to carry the canal under the Downs, which would have brought it out a short distance east of Bevingdean Farm. (This is the straight section on the map).

After leaving the west end of the tunnel, the route would have crosses the valley near Bevingdean by an embankment, keeping

on the side of the hill in a level cutting, and crossing the Bevingdean road below the wind-mill.

Competition arrived in the early 1840s, when the London and Brighton Railway was built with the section between Brighton and Lewes opening on the 8th June 1846.

The canal from Brighton to Lewes was never built, as by the 1840s it was seen that it would not be profitable.



Plan of a proposed Canal from Lewes to Brighthelmston. The Engineer was Alexander Clark, and William Figg junior was the Surveyor who drew the plan in 1825.

The plan shows the proposed canal running through a tunnel from Bevendean to Cranedean, and thence through a series of locks to the River Ouse at Lewes.

Parishes through which the canal would have run were: Brighton, Preston, Patcham, Falmer, St Ann or St Peter and St Mary Westout Lewes, St John the Baptist Southover, St Michael, All Saints Lewes.

Basins would have been constructed at Brighton and Lewes.

John Phillips

Finnish Chocolate Easter Eggs

Two years ago our daughter in law, who lives in Estonia, but works at a Finnish Hospital one weekend a month, sent us some Finnish Chocolate Easter Eggs.

They are made using a real egg shell which is filled with chocolate.



Fazer Mignon Chocolate Eggs were first introduced by Karl Fazer in 1896 and since then this Easter sweet has been a classic of Finland's Holy Weeks.

Each egg is hand made by first cutting a hole in a real chicken egg and removing the contents, the shells are then sterilised and filled with a deliciously creamy chocolate filling containing hazelnuts and almonds.

The eggs are then plugged with sugar and are presented in a neat little egg box.



Every year 2.5 million of this Finnish egg with a German recipe and a French name are sold (the word “mignon” means small and pretty).

They are even available on Amazon.

John Phillips

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