LOCUS FOCUS
newsletter of the Sussex Place-Names Net
Volume 1, number 1 • Autumn 1996

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• EDITORIAL

This is volume 1, number 1, of the newsletter of **The Sussex Place-Names Net**, a group of people having an active scholarly interest in the place-names of Sussex, major and minor. "Having an interest" means collecting names, making databases, constructing and publishing explanations of names, identifying the sites named by names no longer current, and putting specialist knowledge from other disciplines at the disposal of place-name scholars. The "owners" and copyright-holders of *Locus focus* are the **Net**; the editor is Richard Coates. The editor has provided most of the copy for this first-flowering, but does not intend to monopolize each issue. We are not a mindlessly exclusive body, and would be happy to welcome new members to the **Net**, with the sole condition that anybody wishing to join should be active in research, on however small a scale, anxious to make their findings widely known, and keen to join in semi-public discussion. Contributions to *Locus focus*, queries, notes, short articles (500 words maximum), notices of events, are welcomed from members of the **Net** and non-members alike. Notes and short articles will be subject to editorial control in a friendly and constructive spirit.

Our aim - a rather general one - is to make further information available to a future Editor in Sussex of the English Place-Name Survey. The Survey covered Sussex nearly 70 years ago, but published very little in its two-volume work *The place-names of Sussex* (1929/30) about the minor names of the county. Such a distance also makes it possible for new views to arise about the origin and meaning of the names that were actually surveyed. We hope to contribute to all aspects of the enterprise, in both collection and correction.

We expect to publish two newsletters a year, in Spring and Autumn. For the time being, this will happen thanks to the good offices of the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences at the University of Sussex.

The normal size of the newsletter is expected to be smaller than this. The launch issue is unusually fat, because it includes a list of all publications relevant to Sussex place-names that have come to the editor's attention since he published his *Classified bibliography on Sussex place-names, 1586-1987* (Younsmere Press, 1987). No attempt has been made to classify them; but then the classification scheme adopted in the original book was pretty inept. O for hindsight before the event!

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• NET MEMBERS

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offcentre I • UNOFFICIAL NAMES

Residents of Lewes could not dissuade their council from calling a new relief road *Mayhew Way* (I think I've got that last letter the right way up) after certain (ex-)councillors, despite making such suggestions as *Not Wanted Road* and *Eyesore Avenue* (*Sussex Express* (Lewes edition), 22/7/1994). Does anyone know of more names of this interesting sort that have got past planning committees - or more realistically, that have continued in use in defiance of the official ones?

offcentre II • NEXT STOP FRED WEST AVENUE

Jan Kurrels notes in the *Sussex Express* (Lewes edition), 4 October 1996, that *Lulham Close* in Telscombe was named after the last Englishman hanged for sheep-stealing. Even wickeder than the posthumous pardon for so awful a crime is the fact that this violated the local authority's stated policy not to name Telscombe streets after people. So that's all right: a uniquely law- abiding name.

• PERSONAL STATEMENTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS: A SELECTION John Bleach

I am interested in many aspects of local naming, including the names of houses and streets, church and altar dedications, and occupations or trades. I have worked recently on names in Ringmer and Lewes, with an investigation in progress relevant to the name of Lewes itself.

Richard Coates

I am editor of the English Place-Name Survey in Hampshire, and a member of the Council of the English Place-Name Society. I have written numerous articles on place-names in general, including several on names in Sussex, as well as compiling the place-name bibliography mentioned elsewhere. In Sussex, I have been working on the field-names and other minor names of Rottingdean and West Thorney. A booklet on West Thorney names is within sight of publication. As a linguist, I am interested in the survival of Celtic place-names, and also in local dialect; I am just completing *A companion guide to Sussex dialect.* I shall soon (1997) embark on a project on words for inhabited sites used as place-name elements in Anglo-Saxon times.

Pam Combes

I am interested in assessing the value of the contribution that the interpretation of minor place- names and field-names (especially) can make to our understanding of the settlement pattern within parishes, and eventually, as the data builds up, within wider areas of the county. I would like to explore the possibility of creating a computer database and a standard methodology for recording the distribution of names.

Mark Gardiner

I have a twofold interest in place-names. Firstly, I am concerned with the relationship between the place-name and the subject of that name. That may seem a simple matter, but the subject of a name may change over time. The name of a hill, for example, may later be applied to a farm in its vicinity. I am currently examining the changing uses of the river- and place-name *Limen* applied to the River Rother from between the 12th and 16th centuries. The name has a longer and very interesting history. My second concern is closely connected with this. What do place- names indicate about perceptions of the landscape in the past? The geographical focus of my research remains the eastern area of Sussex and adjoining areas of Kent.

Michael Leppard

I am a recently retired schoolmaster, East Grinstead born and bred. I have studied the town's history for three dozen years and published numerous articles about it, its local lore and its dialect, building up a four-drawer card-index of local place-names within the ancient parish boundaries. I am editor of the East Grinstead Society's twice-yearly *Bulletin*, which contains much place-name material with detailed reference to sources of spellings, and references to place-names in which I have plans to publish in a future number. I am currently working on the identification of local entries in *Domesday Book* and the Lewes *Chartulary and* the correlation of holdings mentioned in both.

Diana Sanders

I am studying sites in Sussex with place-names in Saxon -*tūn* with a view to assessing (1) the extent to which these sites share a consistent set of characteristics, and (2) to analysing the spatial relationship of these sites to one another and to other place-name types. My findings suggest that the generic *tūn* was being applied to specific types of site through much of the Saxon period: that is, that the -*tūn* sites were distinguishable functionally and economically -   and possibly visually - from other contemporary sites. Many are likely to have had antecedents in earlier (and presumably other-named) sites.

The idea for this research grew out of a more general interest in habitative place-names, in particular their potential use in tracing settlement patterns and distribution networks in the earlier Saxon period. I hope in due course to start testing some of my Sussex findings against a wider area, but I believe that Sussex, because of its geographical and historical integrity, must remain a key area for investigation.

Liz Somerville

I am an archaeologist by trade, if not by training, working on the environmental side. I would be very interested in working with anyone on aspects of place-names which may link to environmental change. I am happy to burrow into the environmental literature if I don't know of any relevant data. My other interest relevant to the group is to try to put together data for past land-use on Malling Down and environs.

Heather Warne

My degree was in Classics. In the early 1960s, the syllabus was 95% Latin and Greek with a bit of ancient history thrown in. Through my mother's influence (as a keen walker) I had also studied Ordnance Survey maps as a recreation from a tender age. Though I abandoned Classics to become an archivist, I retained an interest in the structure of language, while my career enabled me to develop skills in topography. I find place-names exciting, a mystery to be unravelled or a logic to be worked through. From the perspective of detailed fieldwork, I enjoy challenging accepted generalizations about local names.

I have worked in Sussex, in archives or in archive research, since 1965, barring the years when I was a full-time mother. I currently work as a self-employed archivist with ongoing contracts at Arundel Castle and at Surrey Record Office.

offcentre III • A TRUE LUCUS
A NON LUCENDO?

Jan Kurrels appears to suggest in the *Sussex Express* (Lewes edition), 4 October 1996, that *Sunset Close* in Telscombe was so named because of a resident's complaint that new building would block out his view of the sun setting over the Tye.

• RECENT LITERATURE

For this issue alone, this section is taken up with a pre-prepared catalogue supplementary to Richard Coates's *A classified bibliography on Sussex place-names, 1586-1987* (Younsmere Press, 1987; out of print but available in all good libraries). It contains quite a few ancient items missed the first time round. Normally, it will contain only recent publications about Sussex, and also briefly annotated mentions of works likely to prove illuminating about place- name study in our region more generally. If you spot anything suitable as you read around, let the editor know.

The *Classified bibliography* included material on dialect. The present list does not, as dialect is the topic of separate bibliographical work in hand at the moment. The system of abbreviations used (for names of journals, etc.) is that of the earlier work. Items alluded to in author-date format which are not in this catalogue are in the earlier work. Items marked with a double asterisk (**) are mentioned in the earlier work, and they appear here if including corrections or further publication details. The list is uncensored, and includes material a very wide variety of quality and importance. It does not include items in the present issue of *Locus focus.* But the (possibly superfluous) device of putting the author's given name, where known, instead of an initial, is used to draw special attention to a recent piece of work (1993 onwards).

Allcroft, A.H. (1917) The first castle of William de Warenne. *Archaeological Journal* 74, pp. 36-78. [Contains discussion of some Latin and (Anglo-)Norman renderings of the name of Lewes and its priory. Cf. L.F. Salzman (1922) The castle of Lewes. *SAC* 63, pp. 166-79 [including a sceptical response], and Allcroft's reply therein.]

Allen, A. (1987) The wolf in Sussex. *SL* (May), pp. 42-3. [Mentions some *wolf* place-names.]

** Anderson (Arngart), O.S. (1934-41) *The English hundred names,* volumes I-III. Lund: Gleerup/Leipzig: Harrassowitz (Lunds Universitets Årsskrift 30 (1), 35 (5), 37 (1)). [The standard work. Sussex material appears principally scattered in vol. I (1934), and in vol. III *The south-eastern counties* (1941), pp. 66-108.]

Anderson (Arngart), O. (1978) Notes on some English place-names. *Vetenskapsocieteten i Lund Årsbok,* pp. 5-15 [esp. 7-9].

anonymous (1871) [Query on the date of origin of the short form of *Brighthelmston.*] *N&Q* 7, 3, p. 347. [Correspondence continued: J.K.L. (7, 3, p. 347); Q. V. (7, 3, p. 503; H. G. Griffinhoofe (7, 3, p. 503, who cites the *Mirror* 19 (1832), p. 89 as dating the short form to 1660); anonymous (8, 10, p. 216); E. Walford (8, 10, p. 325); W.C.B. (8, 10, p. 325); H. Malet (8, 10, p. 402); E. Marshall (8, 10, p. 504); C.P. Hale (8, 11, p. 255) - i.e. in two bursts in 1871 and 1897.]

anonymous (1987b) Owzat! Legends live on ... *BEA* 15/7/1987, p. 4. [Cricketers commemorated in street-names in Burgess Hill.]

anonymous (1987c) Beach bid is left high and dry. *BEA* 10/12/1987, p. 13. [Bid by Ramada Renaissance hotel, Brighton, to get beach named after itself. The hotel was itself renamed the *Hospitality Inn* in 1989, and is now the *Brighton Thistle.* Cf. anonymous (1979).]

anonymous (1987d) Review of Coates (1987c). *SH* 24 (2), pp. 39-40.

anonymous (1988a) Children refuse to be Brow beaten. *BEA* 9/3/1988, p. 9. [Suggestions for name of a sheltered housing scheme in Burgess Hill.]

anonymous (1988b) Name wins Emma £ 25. *BEA* 10/6/1988, p. 14. [Result of a competition to name a new building in Eastbourne.]

anonymous (1988c) Brickyard Close revolts! *BEA* 8/7/1988, p. 3. [Row over proposed change from *The Ridings* (Horsham). See also 21/7/1988, p. 10.]

anonymous (1988d) The road to learning. *BEA* 10/10/1988, p. 15. [New street-names at the University of Sussex. See also 11/10/1988, p. 7, and *University of Sussex Bulletin* 31/1/89, p. 2.]

anonymous (1988e) A close call on the name odyssey. *BEA* 4/11/1988, p. 3. [About *Orestes Close*, Crawley.]

anonymous (1989a) Hobby horse attracts a wager. *BEA* 26/1/1989, p. 11. [About the official name of the many-named road at Ditchling Common. Resolved in favour of *St Helena Lane,* see "PC gets answer to lane mystery", *BEA* 27/1/1989, p. 9; but see also "Signs that spell out a right rural rumpus", *BEA* 23/7/1990, p. 5 - the solution apparently did not please everyone.]

anonymous (1989b) Crest is a nice name, but ... *BEA* 30/5/1989, p. 7. [... Crest Way, Portslade, enshrines the name of a major competitor of the developers, Persimmon.]

anonymous (1989c) Welcome to Anstye, er, Ansty. *BEA* 2/10/1989, p. 5. [On the spelling of the name.]

anonymous (1990) Name-dropping: it just doesn't please. *BEA* 18/4/1990, p. 11. [About past and present names for Smugglers Walk, Upper Beeding.]

Anscombe, A. (1922) The etymon of Portslade and Portsmouth. *Anglia* 46, pp. 383-4. [Cf. Anscombe (1926c).]

Anscombe, A. (1923) Early kings of Sussex. Port and his sons. *Herald Magazine* (supplement to *SCH),* 20/10/1923. [Most of Anscombe's philological work may be safely ignored.]

Anscombe, A. (1925) The name of Guestling. *Herald Magazine* (supplement to *SCH*), 19/9/1925.

Anscombe, A. (1927) Scholars' theories on Sussex place-names. *Herald Magazine* (supplement to *SCH*), 12/11/1927.

Ashton, K. (1988) *Sussex and America.* Shoreham: the author. [Chapter 2 (pp. 5-16) details some Sussex place-names transferred to the U.S.A. and Canada; sometimes misleading, sometimes inaccurate.]

Bacon-Phillips, J.P. (1930) [Letter.] *Daily Telegraph,* 28/1/1930. [On hereditary nicknames in Sussex.]

Bateman, F.B. (1915) Polegate, Sussex. *N&Q* 11, 11, p. 194.

Bates, D. (1986) *A bibliography of Domesday Book.* Woodbridge: Boydell Press. [Entries 4101-71 (pp. 126-31) relate to Sussex.]

Baxter, E.A. (1987) Tying up the loose ends (2). *FPN* (March), pp. 15-17. [Cf. Baxter (1986). The discrepancy between the titles is real.]

Baxter, E. (1988) The name Fernhurst. *FPN* (Christmas), pp. 12-13. [Defends the *PNSx* view against allcomers.]

Baxter, E. (1989) "Saddlers Sollers" or "Sellers Sollers"? *FPN* (April), pp. 8-10. [House in Fernhurst.]

Bevan, M. (1986) A Saxon boundary in Warminghurst. *SAC* 124, p. 260.

** Bleach, J. and R. Coates (1987) Three more Walcots. *JEPNS* 19, pp. 56-63.

Blewett, D. (1989) Moll Flanders in Chichester. *N&Q* 234, pp. 51-2. [On Defoe's confusing Chester with Chichester in *Moll Flanders.*]

Bonner, A. (1922) The name 'Rotten Row'. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* (new series) 4, pp. 265-72.

Booker, J.M.L. (ed.) (1975) *The Wiston archives; a catalogue.* Chichester: West Sussex County Council. [Calendar of documents relating to many places in West Sussex; field-names and other minor names mentioned.]

Bradley, H. (1910) English place-names. *Essays and Studies by Members of the English Association* 1, pp. 7-41. Reprinted in his *Collected papers.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 80-109. [An early essay of great influence on the first generation of place-name specialists like A.H. Mawer and F.M. Stenton.]

Bradley, H. (1928) The etymology of Arundel. Reprint of Bradley (1915) in his *Collected papers.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 123-4.

Brandon, P.F. (1975) Review of Glover (1975). *SASNL* 15 (March), p. 67.

Budgen, W. (1912) [Address to the Annual Meeting of the SAS identifying this *Mearcredesburna.*] Reported in *SAC* 56, p. xvii. [Cf. also *SAC* 63, p. 243.]

Budgen, W. (1929) Two probable hundred moot sites. *SNQ* 2, pp. 210-4. [The sites of Willingdon and Totnore hundred moots.]

Burder, E.R. (1949) Some place-names at Mayfield. *SNQ* 12, pp. 175-6.

Burgess, K.M. and R. Cook (1980) Grumbridge: the spread of a surname. *East Surrey Family History Society Journal* 3 (2), pp. 11-13.

Cameron, K. (1988) *English place-names* [new paperback edition]. London: Batsford. [Further edition since.]

Carder, T. (1990) *The encyclopædia of Brighton.* Lewes: East Sussex Library Service. [Section 16 on the name of Brighton; section 151 on Roads: (e) street-name derivations, (f) street-name changes; some individual entries on localities and streets.]

Clark, D.K. (1933) The Saxon hundreds of Sussex. *SAC* 74, pp. 214-25.

** Coates, R. (1987a) Corrigendum to the Survey. Vol. VII (*The place-names of Sussex, part* II), p. 291. *JEPNS* 19, p. 64.

** Coates, R. (1987b) Harlot's Wood. *SAC* 125, p. 251. [In Northiam.]

Coates, R. (1988a) *Toponymic topics.* Brighton: Younsmere Press. [Collection of essays including:
  ** Ecclesden Manor, West Sussex (pp. 49-51)
  On personal names in the genitive singular with "ford" (pp. 71-3)
  Virgins and haws: the progeny of Germanic "*hag-" in Old English
      (pp. 74-80)
  ** The term "forrǣpe" in various south-eastern documents (pp. 81-8)
  ** Mischief with two names in the Old English Chronicle (pp. 99-101) and others not directly relevant to Sussex.]

Coates, R. (1988b) *A bibliography of place-names in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.* Brighton: Younsmere Press. [Second edition (1992).]

Coates, R. (1988c) Sussex place-names. *SASNL* 55 (August), p. 4. [Report of a lecture delivered by Margaret Gelling in Lewes, 20/5/88.]

Coates, R. (1989) *The place-names of Hampshire.* London: Batsford. [Paperback edition published as *Hampshire place-names.* Southampton: Ensign (1993).]

Coates, R. (1990a) Mount Noddy again. *BEGS* 47, pp. 8-10. [Cf. Blakeney (1979), anonymous (1983a), Leppard (1989b).]

Coates, R. (1990b) *Some place-names of the downland fringe. Seven Sussex essays of 1990.* Brighton: Younsmere Press. [Collection of essays, mentioned individually elsewhere except: Some notes on *Danny*; The name of *The Marlipins,* New Shoreham, West Sussex. See also Coates (1990c, 1991a,b,c,d).]

Coates, R. (1990c) The mystery of *Valseau. Sussex History* 30, pp. 19-22. [Also in Coates (1990b).]

Coates, R. (1991a) The Roman villa site at Beddingham. *Newsletter of the Lewes Archaeological Group* 97, pp. 5-8, and 98, unpaginated. [Also in Coates (1990b).]

Coates, R. (1991b) The name of Lewes: some problems and possibilities. *JEPNS* 23, pp. 5-15. [Also in Coates (1990b).]

Coates, R. (1991c) *Anderida*: not the Roman name of Pevensey. *SAC* 129, pp. 250-1. [Also in Coates (1990b).]

Coates, R. (1991d) The lost street-name *Bukettwin*, Lewes. *SAC* 129, pp. 252-3. [Also in Coates (1990b). See also letters by Hilda Holden, *SASNL (Sussex Past and Present)* (1995) 76, p. 7, and Richard Coates, *ibid.* 77 (1995), p. 15. Also relevant is C. and J. Brent (1993) The dedication of St Anne's church, Lewes. *SAC* 131 (1993), pp. 20-1.]

Coates, R. (1992) *A bibliography of place-names in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* [second edition]. Brighton: Younsmere Press.

Coates, Richard (1993) Language in the landscape: place-naming and language change. Professorial lecture, University of Sussex, 8/6/1993. [Published as a Cognitive Sciences Research Report at the University of Sussex (1993). Uses much Sussex material for illustration of general themes in place-name study and linguistics.]

Coates, Richard (1994) The Long Man and some local place-names. *SAC* 131, pp. 135-6. [Appendix to an article by J.H. Farrant on the history and scholarship of the Long Man.]

Cocks, W. and M. C.M. Smith (1989) *Horam parish land-holdings, field-names and population in the 1840s. Part I: Tithe Award.* Horam: Horam Local History Society.

Cole, A. (1989) The meaning of the Old English place-name element *ōra*. JEPNS 21, pp. 15-22.

Cole, A. (1990) The origin, distribution and use of the place-name element *ōra*. JEPNS 22, pp. 26-41. [Cf. previous item. Element well represented in Sussex.]

Cole, A. (1991) *Burna* and *brōc*: problems involved in retrieving the Old English usage of these place-name elements. *JEPNS* 23, pp. 26-48. [*Brōc* is especially important in Sussex.]

Combes, Pamela and Malcolm Lyne (1995) Hastings, Haestingaceaster and Haestingaport. *SAC* 133, pp. 213-24.

Cox, Barrie (1994) *English inn and tavern names.* Nottingham: Centre for English Name Studies (vol. 1).

** Crookshank, A.C. (1926-7) West Hoathly field-names. *SNQ* 1, pp. 194-5. [Responses by E. Straker on p. 229 and T.H.W. Buckley on p. 257.]

Davey, L.S. (1977) *The inns of Lewes, past and present.* Lewes: Friends of Lewes.

Davies, J.G. (1989) *A historical gazetteer of Ovingdean ecclesiastical parish.* Ovingdean: the author (Ovingdean History Occasional Paper 11). [Contains much local place-name information.]

Davis, M. (1990) Same bar - new name. *BEA* 21/2/1990, p. 9. [On changes of names of Brighton pubs.]

Delorme, M. (1987) Name-dropping. Chapter 8 of her *Curious Sussex.* London: Hale, pp. 160-74. [A rhapsody on local names.]

Dick, A.M. (1987) Evidence for early Saxon settlement in the valleys of the rivers Ouse and Tyne. Dissertation for the degree of BA, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. [The Ouse is the Sussex Ouse.]

Dick, A.M. (1989) Place-names and early Saxon settlement in the Ouse and Cuckmere valleys. Manuscript.

Dodgson, J.McN. (1987) Domesday Book: place-names and personal names. In J.C. Holt (ed.) *Domesday studies.* Woodbridge: Boydell Press (for the Royal Historical Society), pp. 121-37. [On

the spellings of names; discusses some difficult Sussex material.]

Dolley, R.H.M. and F.E. Jones (1955-7) The mints "æt Gothabyrig" and "æt Sith(m)estebyrig", with a philological and topographical note on Cissbury [by M. Daunt]. *British Numismatic Journal* (series 3) 8, pp. 270-82. [Cf. Hudson (1982).]

Duckett, Sir G. (1894) Hastings and Senlac. *SAC* 39, pp. 28-30. [Argues *Senlac* not a place- name but a descriptive term 'bloodbath'; wrong.]

Dunkling, L. (1971) *English house names.* Thames Ditton: The Names Society.

Dunkling, L., and G. Wright (1987) *A dictionary of pub names.* London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Ellis, C.W. (1991) Nominally obscure: from Wepham to Whapham. *Sussex Family Historian* 9 (6), pp. 219-23.

Elphick, G. (1989) The history of a name [i.e. *Elphick*]. *DPHSM* 3 (9), pp. 23-30. [A variant on the article in *East Surrey Family History Society Journal* 9 (1), (1986).]

Evans, T.E. and J.S. Hodgkinson (1984) Birchenbridge Forge: a new site identified. *Wealden Iron* (second series) 4, pp. 7-10. [At TQ 193292 on the boundaries of Nuthurst and Horsham Rural.]

Farrant, J.H. and S. Farrant (eds.) (1975) *Preston in the 17th. and 18th. centuries.* UOS CCE OP 3. [Esp. ch. 2.]

Farrant, S. (1980) *Georgian Brighton, 1740-1820.* UOS CCE OP 13. [Esp. chs. 2 and 4.]

Farrant, S. (1985) *Changes in Brighton and Hove suburbs: Preston and Patcham, 1841-1871.* Hove: S. Farrant.

Field, J. (1979b) A classification of English field-names. *Proceedings of the 13th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences 1978.* Kraków.

Field, J. (1986) *Compliment and commemoration in English field-names* [second edition]. Edinburgh: Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland.

Field, J. (1987a) What to read on place-names in Britain. *LH* 17 (7), pp. 395-404.

Field, J. (1987b) Crops for man and beast. *Leeds Studies in English* (new series) 18 *(Studies in honour of Kenneth Cameron),* pp. 157-71. [Crops as registered in field-names.]

Field, J. (1990) Creatures great and small: excursions among English field-names. *Nomina* 13, pp. 1-11.

Field, John (1993) *A history of English field-names.* Harlow: Longman.

Fransson, G. (1935) *Middle English surnames of occupation 1100-1350.* Lund.

Gardiner, M. (1989a) Some lost Anglo-Saxon charters and the endowment of Hastings College. *SAC* 127, pp. 39-48.

Gardiner, M. (1989b) The documentary evidence. Pp. 129-30 of R. Holgate, The excavation of a late medieval hall-house at Brook Lane, near Horsham, West Sussex. *SAC* 127, pp. 123-31.

Gardiner, M. (1991) Review of Williams and Erskine (1990). *SASNL* 63 (April), p. 10.

** Gardiner, M. and R. Coates (1987) Ellingsdean: a Viking battlefield identified. *SAC* 125, pp. 251-2.

** Gelling, M. (1988) *Signposts to the past* [second edition]. Chichester: Phillimore.

Gould, D. (1985) W. Best & Son, Coal Merchants. *BEGS* 38 (Spring), pp. 7-9. [Some street- name sources.]

Gray, J.S. (1976) *Brighton between the wars.* London: Batsford. [Some information on the origin of obscure minor names in Brighton.]

Green, Kenneth (1996) *The street names of Chichester: when and why they were named.* Chichester: Verdant Publications.

Grinsell, L.V. (1987) Surrey barrows 1934-1986: a reappraisal. *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 78, pp. 1-41. [Especially pp. 7-11 on names from charters and field-names.]

Hall, D. (1985) *Growing up in Ditchling.* Brighton: QueenSpark Books 16. [Esp. p. 25; occasional mentions passim.]

Hardy, D., and C. Ward (1984) *Arcadia for all: the legacy of a makeshift landscape.* London: Mansell. [Esp. pp. 66, 73-7, 92-4, 105-7.]

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Hodgson, J.M. (1963-7) Tangmere and Waterbeach. *SNQ* 16, pp. 12-15.

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Holden, E.W. (1976) Port's Road, the ancient road of Portslade. *SAC* 114, pp. 323-4.

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** Hollis, W. (1916) The story of Angmering-on-Sea. *Scribble from Angmering-on-Sea, East Preston, Rustington - and round about* 1, pp. 1-3. [Bizarre etymology offered.]

Hough, Carole (1996) Three place-name compounds: OE *swīnland,* OE *wiþerstede* and OE *cēapland. JEPNS* 28, pp. 71-6. [*Wiþerstede* is of interest for Worsted's Farm, East Grinstead.]

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J[ohnston], G.D. (1952) The Burwash-Etchingham parish boundary. *SNQ* 13, pp. 229-34. [Record of perambulations of 1684 and 1782. Notes include dialect vocabulary. Rejoinders on pp. 292, 324.]

Jolly, S. (1987) What's in a name? I: Findon and Cissbury. II: Nepcote, Ramsdean, Kingswood, Rogers Farm. *Findon News* 285 (July), p. 5 and 286 (August), p. 5.

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Leppard, M.J. (1971a,b) Names. Local pronunciation. *BEGS* 6 (May), p. 5, p. 6.

Leppard, M.J. (1971c) Peashuttlers Gate. *BEGS* 7 (September), p. 8.

Leppard, M.J. (1971d) Ashurst Wood or Ashurstwood? *BEGS* 7 (September), p. 10.

Leppard, M.J. (1972a) Names - again! *BEGS* 8 (January), p. 8. [On the candidate names for this district. For readers' responses, see *BEGS* 9 (May), p. 4, and 10 (September), p. 4.]

Leppard, M.J. (1972b) When Sherlock Holmes was here. *BEGS* 9 (May), p. 5. ["Birlstone" in *The valley of fear* by A. Conan Doyle. Cf. also *BEGS* 22 (1977, September), p. 11.] Leppard, M.J. (1972c,d) The Playfield. The Hermitage. *BEGS* 9 (May), p. 6, p. 7.

Leppard, M.J. (1975) 159-161 London Road. *BEGS* 17 (August), p. 12.

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Leppard, M.J. (1976b) A lost name finds a home. *BEGS* 19 (May), p. 9.

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Leppard, M.J. (1980b) Lime kilns in East Grinstead. *BEGS* 28 (September), p. 8.

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Leppard, M.J. (1991) East Grinstead before the town. *SAC* 129, pp. 29-32. [On the medieval new town and its topography.]

Leppard, M.J. (1992a) Mount Noddy: Wealden iron or Wealden irony? *Wealden Iron: Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group* (second series) 12, pp. 27-8. [Cf. Blakeney (1979), anonymous (1983a), Leppard (1989b), Coates (1990).]

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Leppard, Michael J. (1994a) Final stress: further notes. *BEGS* 54 (Spring), p. 10.

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Lip, G. (1989) Home for a Quaker. *BEA* 24/11/1989, p. 25. [Penn's in the Rocks, Groombridge; commemorates William Penn.]

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** Mawer, A.H. (1926-7) Sussex place-names. *SNQ* 1, pp. 259-60.

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** McKinley, R. (1988) *The surnames of Sussex.* Oxford: Leopard's Head Press (English Surnames series 5). [Will be a standard text.]

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** Pettitt, J. (in preparation) Glossary of Wealden-Iron field-names. [Cf. Straker 1931. Early typescript draft dated 1972 exists.]

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** Rumble, A.R. (1987) Old English *Bōc-land* as an Anglo-Saxon estate name. *LSE* 17, pp. 219-29. [Of possible relevance to names like Buckland Bank, Falmer.]

Salmon, E.F. (1928-9) Hove - origin of the name. *SNQ* 2, pp. 239-40. [See A.H. Mawer's rejoinder in *SNQ* 3 (1930-1), pp. 21-22.]

Salzmann, L.F. (1901) *The history of the parish of Hailsham.* Lewes: Farncombe. [Chapter 1 contains material on surveys and bounds.]

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** Saunders-Jacobs, S. (no date (?1975)) *West Chiltington in Sussex* [second edition]. Privately printed. [Includes a concordance of present property names with earlier ones and surnames represented in the area; esp. pp. 33-6; this is absent from the first edition of 1965.]

Sawyer, F.E. (1880a (?)) *Index of names of places in Domesday survey of Sussex.* Privately

printed. [Undated.]

Sawyer, F.E. (1880b) Place-names of England: a dictionary. *N&Q 6*, 2, pp. 376-7. [45 spellings of *Brighthelmston.*]

Sawyer, F.E. (1882) Brighton field names. *N&Q* 6, 2, pp. 125-6.

Sawyer, F.E. [authorship attributed by J.G. Bishop] (date uncertain, after 1889) History of Brighton streets, I-XV. [Cuttings from a newspaper (almost certainly *BH*), bound as pp. 16-74 of a scrapbook by J.G. Bishop titled *Historical memoranda relating to Brighton and Sussex,* housed at the library of the SAS. The occasional apparent self-reference may be an interpolation by Bishop, who was editor of *BH* at the time.]

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Spittal, J. and J. Field (1990) *A reader's guide to the place-names of the United Kingdom.* Stamford: Paul Watkins. [The essential bibliographical source on this topic, covering all the major works published since 1920.]

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** Stevens, L. et al. (1975) *The Eastbourne tithe schedule.* Eastbourne: Eastbourne Local History Society. [With notes on names by V. Hodsoll. Also 1982 version by V. Hodsoll and M. Lewis.]

** Straker, E. (1930-1) Notes on some Sussex place-names [first part of article]. *SNQ* 3, pp. 89-90. [Cf. H[olgate] (1930-1).]

** Straker, E. (1934-5) Field-names. *SNQ* 5, pp. 233-6.

Symonds, A.A.S. (1968) Muster Green, Haywards Heath. *Sussex Life* (October), p. 39. [Actually an extract from notes by A.R. Pannett, largely consisting of a quotation from Grose's *Military antiquities.* Conjectures that the name arose between 1660 and 1722.]

T., M.G. (1924) The old wells of Sussex. *DP* (new series) 1 (10), pp. 300, 309.

Taylor, M. (completing work by J. Thompson) (1988) *What's in a name?* Rustington: private. [On Littlehampton street-names.]

Titford, C.F. (1975) Origin of Brighton's name. *SASNL* 15 (March), p. 67. [Wrong because ignorant of Anglo-Norman spelling conventions.]

Warne, H. (1989) Stanmer: a restructured settlement. *SAC* 127, pp. 189-210. [Uses place-name evidence, esp. pp. 204-7.]

Wetherill, Eric C. (1992) *Antiquarian rambles through Saltcote, Playden.* Playden: private. [Esp. pp. 30-42.]

Williams, A. and R.W.H. Erskine (eds.) (1990) *The Sussex Domesday,* 3 vols. London: Editions Alecto. [Major new facsimile edition. Cf. Darby and Versey 1975, Morris 1976. Reviewed by

M. Gardiner in *SASNL* 63 (April 1991), p. 10.]

Wood, P.D. (1996) Unfinished business: East Grinstead in the Domesday survey. *BEGS* 58 (Spring), pp. 3-23. [See also Leppard (1996).]

Yates, E.M. (1960) History in a map. *GJ* 126, pp. 32-51. [On names in Harting and Rogate.]

Zachrisson, R.E. (1928) Two Anglo-Keltic place-names, *Sunt, Sompting* in Sussex. *SN* 1, pp. 109-13. [Wrong; cf. intro. to *PN Sx.*]

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Note also a recent (1996) MS. by Hume Wallace, *Sealevel and shoreline between Portsmouth and Pagham for the past 2500 years.* This is potentially of very great interest to students of names in and near the Manhood, and of Saxon settlement history, but it is not yet in its final form.

• NEWS ITEMS

The foundation meeting of the Ashdown Forest Project took place on 23 September 1995. We look forward to close and fruitful relations with the Project, a topographical survey directed for the Sussex Archaeological Society by Dr Richard Jones. We draw attention to its twice-yearly *Newsletter*, and especially to the contributions to no. 2 (February 1996) by Pam Combes and Richard Coates.

The SAS Autumn Conference on the rapes of Sussex took place on 12 October 1996. Papers with some interest for place-name scholars by Katherine Keats-Rohan and Kathleen Thompson will appear in due course in *Sussex Archaeological Collections.*

• FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Lewes Archaeological Group is sponsoring a lecture on Sussex place-names by Margaret Gelling, president of the English Place-Name Society, with a contribution by John Bleach, on 21 March 1997, from 7.00-10.00, at the Friends' Meeting House, Lewes.

Richard Coates is to talk to the Shoreham Society about local place-names at its April 1997 meeting.

• COLLECTING SPELLINGS OF NAMES

This is the crucial preliminary activity in place-name research. For those collecting by traditional methods - by eyestrain and slip of paper - a suggested standard format is illustrated in the *Ashdown Forest Project Newsletter* 2 (1995). In practice, no-one should be discouraged from collecting information in whatever shape or form they wish; but standardization makes the long-term task of information-collators easier.

Much thought needs to be given to standardizing a format for the collection of place-name spellings and related evidence, principally using laptop computers at the place of collection, in libraries and archives. We hope to report on this in *Locus focus* 1, 2 (Spring 1997).

Net members will be pleased to receive lists of names, e.g. Tithe Award transcripts, from any member of the public kind enough to donate them. Place-name study is enormously collaborative where it is most successful, as revealed in the acknowledgements sections of the English Place-Name Society's survey volumes.

• NOTES

This section is for minor observations and suggestions; this time it is much larger than is likely in the future - but who knows? Richard Coates recently passed on to the Director of the English Place-Name Survey, Victor Watts, a few counters to the etymologies proposed for some Sussex names in *The place-names of Sussex (PNSx).* (The numbers beginning each entry are page-references to that work.) Electronic editing allows him to reproduce them with ease here, for further comment or counterblasts.

27 MIDHURST This is better interpreted as 'middle of the wood' than as 'middle wood'. Maybe it is for a prepositional-phrase-name *(on) middum hyrste*, which would account for the persistent medial vowel. *Midd* in Old English never appears to signify 'central one of a row of like objects', as is demanded by the explanation in *PNSx.*

33 CHITHURST (and cf. 271 CHIDDINGLY WOOD) The word *kite* is of unknown origin; could there have been, alongside OE *cyta*, a form *cita* ? If so, CHITHURST would be a parallel for 162 KITHURST. This solution is made more appealing by the existence of CHIDDINGLY WOOD, referred to in 765 (c.1300) Sawyer 50 (however dubious this document may be) as *Citangaleahge*, and in the same document is *Hafocungaleahge*, whose root word is 'hawk'. Neither name has any instances of medieval *-tt-* which would suggest derivation from some such personal name *Cetta* or a relative. The frequent medial vowel speaks against a compound like *Cę̄d-hyrst.*

It is interesting that Welsh words for various birds of prey contain both *cud* and *cid*, but that cuts both ways. Some words have persistent early *-i-* till grammarians stick their oar in and start saying "rectius" *-u-*. But Welsh *-d-* does not give OE *-t-* between vowels, as required by *cyta*. The writer doesn't know enough yet about medieval Welsh spelling practices to work out what the vowels tell us about which direction of borrowing is more plausible.

46 BINDERTON The solution in *PN Sx* is ingenious but not compelling. How about *bēn- drinc* for the first element, making the name 'farm whose tenant would do the lord's reaping at request (later by custom), i.e. *bēn-rīp*, in return for which liquid rewards were provided'? Or is the name too early to allude to such aspects of feudal society?

74 RUNCTON First element perhaps *hrunging*, a singular--*ing* derivative of *hrung* 'rung, staff, pole, beam'. 'Farm with a building of such, or whose function was to provide such'?

130 WISBOROUGH GREEN The explanation from *wisc* is unsatisfactory, in view of the modern pronunciation and the bulk of the record. First element *wīsa* or *Wīsa* 'wise; leader' or person called this: 'leader's or Wīsa's barrow'. There is a preponderance of medial vowels to support this view over a one appealing to a bare-stem compound.

151 GREATHAM The etymology in *grēat* 'big' is supported by the fact that the village is on a large promontory between the Arun and the Amberley Wild Brooks. It is not strictly in a river- bend in the sense of being near-enclosed by a definite watercourse. It is on sandstone, which to my mind is not *grēot* 'gravel'.

152 PULBOROUGH and 159 SLINFOLD If they contain the (supposed) topographical words *pōl*, *pull*, *slind*, appear to require them in the strong genitive plural in -*a to* account for the spellings.

168, 289 HANGLETON The proffered derivation from *hangra* depends on two parallels where the *l* can be seen as due to dissimilation from a further *r* in the name. Really there is no escaping derivation of the Sussex names from *hangelle* 'pendant' in some extended sense. Both places are on conspicuous long smooth slopes, 168 at the foot, the church at 289 half-way down. Maybe that is the sense.

194 WORTHING This may simply be a singular--*ing* derivative of *worð*, *wyrð*. Compare the proposed *stelling* and *wering* in *English place-name elements* for the structure.

197 SALVINGTON A much better etymon for the first element than *Sǣlāf* would be *Sǣwulf*, as suggested by Ekwall in *DEPN*.

207 TRULEIGH The range of forms suggests not *trēow* 'tree', but alternation for the first element between *trūwa* and *trēowa*, both meaning 'good faith, covenant'. Whatever the ultimate origin, the name has developed accordingly and the (obsolete) modern pronunciation /tru:lai/ is the one expected given such an origin.

221, 234 STEYNING Coates discusses this fully in his forthcoming paper for the Dodgson memorial volume, concluding that it is the plural of a singular-*ing* derivative of *stān*.

227 HORNBROOK The first element may be the genitive plural of a singular-*ing* derivative of *horn* that Coates missed in his Dodgson memorial volume article whilst discussing *horning*.

279 TWINEHAM The proximal etymon should be something like *betwīon ēam*. The "Kentish" phonology required in the first element needs flagging as noteworthy so far west, but *betwyne* for 'between' is found in c16 accounts from Chichester.

287 PYECOMBE Ekwall *(DEPN)* was surely right to postulate as the first element *pēo*, ?better *pīe*, 'midge'.

289 PORTSLADE Even if Margaret Gelling, in *Place-names in the landscape*, is right that names like this contain *gelād*, the phonology of the second syllable needs commentary; -*lode* is expected.

299 EAST CHILTINGTON, as discussed by Coates in *JEPNS* 16 (1983-4), 7-15; contains a pre-Celtic word for 'steep slope'.

308 FALMER The colour-term involved is surely 'fallow', however that is to be glossed in today's colour terminology.

310 TENANT LAIN etc. The note in *PN Sx* is wrong; *laine* in parishes round here means 'open field', and *The Lanes* in Brighton are just that: lanes.

312 STANMER is probably 'pond marked by (large) stones', and not a stony-bottomed pond.

318 LEWES Some recent work (watch this space!) - suggests that after all 'mounds' is correct, but the linguistic arguments against (*JEPNS* 23 (1990-1)) don't go away.

349 MARESFIELD Still problematic - perhaps one might throw into the melting-pot *(ge)mærsod* 'extended, increased' as a possible first element?

353 MOUNT CABURN There is a good sequence of forms proving origin in *cald*, *burg* (*SNQ* 15, 43-4).

392 FRAMFIELD No-one appears to have thrown in *fremede* 'strange, foreign, alienus' as a first element, despite the spelling recorded in 1265. It was within the Archbishop's huge peculiar, i.e. was outside the rape of the Count of Mortain, where it was situated geographically.

395 HADLOW DOWN Modern form influenced by *hadlow* 'hare' (*Notes and Queries* 237 (1992), 39)?

404 RIPE Why not Latin *rīpa* rather than a Germanic relative? The place is well-known for its evidence of centuriation.

412 WILMINGTON Probably includes the male personal name *Wīghelm*, plus *-ingtūn*.

431 MEADS Coates, *Toponymic topics* (54-5), suggests the name refers to an eddy below the cliffs.

• QUERIES

1. Devils Race

On behalf of a member of the public, Richard Coates would like to know of any further instances of the field-name *Devils Race*, and would welcome suggestions about its origin. He knows of examples on or near the Bishopstone/Alciston boundary, and in Eastbourne, Rodmell and Rottingdean. Any beyond Downland?

2. Spirt, etc.

On his own behalf, and in relation to work by Michael Leppard, Richard Coates would like to hear of any instances of *spirt/spurt/spart/spirk/spark* and the like in Sussex minor names.

3. Gilpin Close, Fishbourne

Ken Green would like confirmation of the origin of this name.

• ARTICLES

Mark Gardiner has been researching problematic names in *Domesday Book* and has sent the following observations about *Basingeham.* Other interesting recent *Domesday*-related work may be found in the *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* 58 and 59 (1996). A few new identifications were made in the recent Alecto edition of *DB* (1990).

Basingeham

The identification of Domesday *Basingeham* was made by Sir Sylvanus Vivian in his discussion of the manor of Etchingham-cum-Salehurst. Since his identification has been missed by recent editors of Domesday Book, it seems useful to draw attention to it here. He showed that as late as the 19th century the name was applied to a tenement lying near to Higham in Salehurst (not to be confused with the place in Northiam). The following place-name forms may be cited from the references given by Vivian and with further additions:

Basingeham 1086 DB
Besingham 1200 FF
Besingham (p.) c.1205 Pens
Besigkehamm early 13th-c. charter (College of Arms, Misc. Deeds 112)
Besyngeham (p.) 1296 SR
Bezingham 1597 Survey
Bassinghams 1816 Ct

(The abbreviations follow those in A.H. Mawer and F.M. Stenton, *The place-names of Sussex.*)

The only remaining problem is to attempt to trace the descent of the manor of Basingeham. In 1086, the manor was held by a tenant called Osbern who held other lands in the Rape of Hastings, including part of Wellhead on the opposite side of the Rother valley, one hide and three virgates at Bodiam, and land at Penhurst. It was presumably this Osbern who granted to Battle Abbey 30 arpents of meadow at Bodiam. In 1200 William de Bodiam exchanged land at Basingeham with his daughter-in-law, Margaret, and at about the same time granted land nearby to Robertsbridge Abbey. There is little difficulty in connecting these events, for it seems very probable that Osbern was the progenitor of the de Bodiam family. It is, however, notable that among the lands held by Osbern in 1086, was not only Bodiam, but also Penhurst, and both were held later in the Middle Ages by the Wardedieu family. The most likely suggestion is therefore that the manor Basingeham was absorbed into Bodiam manor; it did not form part of the manor of Salehurst as Vivian implies.

Reference

Vivian, S.P. (ed.) (no date, ?1953) *The manor of Etchingham cum Salehurst.* Lewes: Sussex Record Society (vol. 53).

Richard Coates recently received a query about the origin of the word *rape* from a member of the public, via the Sussex Record Society. What follows is based on his reply; the editor judged it to be of some relevance to place-name studies. Interested parties should be aware of the Sussex Archaeological Society Autumn Conference on the rapes of Sussex which took place on 12 October 1996. (See also under **News items** above.)

On the administrative term **rape**

The word *rape* has proved a well-known philological puzzle, and each early attempt to explain it ran into difficulties. An eighteenth-century scholar, Edward Lye, connected it with Old Norse *hreppr* 'tract of land' (which gives Icelandic *hreppur* 'poor-law parish'), but this cannot, for philological reasons, be directly related to *rape.* In any case, and despite occasional claims to the contrary, the Sussex word cannot be of Scandinavian origin - there is no evidence whatever for Scandinavian culture or administration in Sussex. Others, first of all William Somner in the seventeenth century, proposed a connection with Old English *rāp* 'rope'. The catch here is it should have developed into *rope,* not *rape.*

I take it for granted that the application of the term *rape* to a territory is a pre-Conquest innovation; the use in the Anglo-Saxon period of the term *forrǣpe* to land outside some jurisdiction appears to confirm this (Coates 1988). This assumption is without prejudice to the outcome of debate about whether the modern rapes of Sussex date from before or after 1066 (Salzman 1934, Mason 1964). The simplest account of the term's history is that *rape* descends from *rāp,* but with a multilingual twist which is not made fully clear even in the best discussions of the term. As we have just noted, one would expect this Old English word actually to become modern *rope,* and not simply to share the ancestral meaning of this word. The likeliest sequence of events is that *rāp* was done into administrative Latin, before or immediately after the Conquest, as *rapum,* before the vowel-change in the English word had set in. The English word then went its own way. Its vowel changed during the period *c.* 1150-1250, by which latter date it was consistently written *o* in most of England. The Latin word stayed in the administrative language without, obviously, undergoing the change that the English word suffered, as the administration was at the crucial time in the hands of French- speakers. They would have used *rapum,* and frenchified it when necessary as *rāp.* When English took over again as the language of some aspects of legal business in the later Middle Ages, the fact that the divisions had once been called 'ropes' in English was almost forgotten. Arundel rape is called *le Rope d'Arundell* in 1380 *(Rolls of Parliament),* alongside *le Rape* in 1376, and Hastings rape similarly in 1326 *(Patent Roll)* and 1452 (unpublished Court Roll), but these are the only three instances discovered by the time of the publication of *The place-names of Sussex* (Mawer and Stenton 1929/30: 8-10, 99, 450). They do, however, leave open the probability that *rope* was still a current SPOKEN English term for the division in the later Middle Ages. The legal words *rapum/rāp* were then simply re-anglicized as *rape* in the WRITTEN record and given a new pronunciation appropriate to the spelling when they were said out loud. This new pronunciation then crowded out the virtually-lost older *rope,* since the main context for its use would have been in the (now English-language) legal-administrative business in which it had arisen.

There is plenty of evidence supporting the application of a word for 'rope' to a slice of territory in the Germanic languages, and it is laid out in James Tait's note published by Mawer and Stenton (1929: 8-10).

References

Coates, R. (1988) The term *forrǣpe* in various south-eastern documents. In his *Toponymic topics.*

Brighton: Younsmere Press, 81-8.

Mason, J.F.A. (1964) The rapes of Sussex and the Norman conquest. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 102, 69-83.

Mawer, A.H. and F.M. Stenton (1929/30) *The place-names of Sussex.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (English Place-Name Survey vols. 6/7).

Salzman, L.F. (1934) The rapes of Sussex. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 72, 20-9.

• BOOK NOTICE

Kenneth Green: The street names of Chichester. *Chichester: Verdant Publications (1996). ISBN 1 898850 00 3. £4.95.*

This 46-page booklet is the first work specifically on Chichester street-names. The author has done some excellent detective-work, especially on members of that often-neglected category, names of recent origin, and he catalogues names that have gone out of use. A few mysteries remain, but creditably few. There is little for a philologist to dispute. The author provides an index, thank goodness.

---RC

Ken Green notes in correspondence with the editor:

"I have discovered since writing that *Armadale Road* was built on land owned by a Mr Pullen who lived in a house called *Armadale* in Spitalfield Lane, Chichester; most probably that name was derived from one of the Scottish towns of that name. *Baffin* also appears in [Portsmouth and] Havant and I feel that the theory I put forward about [its relation to the surname] *Biffin* may be incorrect. *Pouke Lane* was also known as *Goblin Lane* at one time. I now have the solution to *Mount Lane*: an early principal of the theological college. *Franklin Place* seems to be named after the Arctic explorer rather than the USA politician."

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