

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #1 (27 March 2020). Did you know ?

..... that "**Angmering-on-Sea**" came into being in 1916 against the wishes of Angmering village and it took another 70 years or so before the name was expunged from Ordnance Survey maps.

... that **Angmering** is one of the larger parishes in West Sussex and shares a boundary with no less than ten other parishes, namely, Storrington, Burpham, Warningcamp, Poling, Littlehampton, Rustington, East Preston, Kingston, Ferring, and Patching. Before 1985, the boundary extended down to Worthing Road, East Preston.

..... that Angmering once had 4 **windmills** in the parish.

..... that Angmering has had one of the longest established schools in Sussex. **Older's Charity School** was established c1680 and, in 1965 was renamed St Margaret's CofE. There has been continuity since 1680 although there has been 3 different buildings.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #2 (31 March). Did you know ?

..... that the ancestors of the founders of the renowned **Penfold Winery** in South Australia can be traced back to Richard Penfold of Angmering in the 16th century.

..... that in 1384, Angmering was granted a **Charter** by the King to hold a Saturday market and another Charter to hold an annual fair.

... that Angmering has some 78 protected **Listed Buildings**. All are Grade II with the exception of St Margaret's Church, New Place, and Ecclesden Manor which are of greater historic interest and are listed as Grade II*.

..... that Angmering has two **Roman bathhouses** within its boundaries, the magnificent one with 8 rooms attached to a substantial unexcavated villa in the fields toward Poling, and a small one on the hill on the way to Highdown.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #3 (3 April)

OK, I appreciate that some people may find history a bit dry or uninteresting but, nevertheless, you might be amused by these extracts from Angmering's baptism registers. The rector at the time was the Rev James Croker who, towards the end of his time, was obviously becoming exasperated by illegitimate births as can be seen from these entries:

"**20 November 1757** - James, son of Widdow Crossingham, sworn and confessed to have begotten by her late Husband's Son. Upon examining the Lad, he solemnly declared the Hussy attacked him on his Bed, first in her cloths, then naked. He did not comply. But afterwards She rushed into his Bed and seized the Premisses".

3 April 1765 - William son of Anne Robarts "By God knows who".

2 June 1765 - Sarah daughter of Elizabeth Tye "Who still remains untied"

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #4 (12 April). Did you know that?

..... Angmering had a **minefield** in the village in WW2. This had two mines laid on the bank in Water Lane opposite Weavers Hill. They were removed in September 1944.

..... an **air raid shelter** was constructed in March 1941 in the bank opposite the Village Hall. It could hold between 30 and 40 people. It became a bit notorious after WW2 as youths were using it for dubious purposes. In the early 1950s it was earthed over.

..... it was proposed that a **crematorium** be built in Angmering in 1938 but this was fought off by the Parish Council, the Duke of Norfolk, and residents.

..... until 1877, **Poling parish** owned all the land today comprising all that from the Village Hall round to where the vet's is located.

..... Thomas Wilkinson, **Old Wilkie**, was the landlord of The Lamb in the village between 1850 and 1908 - 58 years! He also specialised in mass-catering and on occasions during the 19thC catered for 2000-3000 people during national celebrations.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #5 (20 April). Did you know that?

.....the first **public telephone** became available in Angmering in 1917. Residents were told that they could use the Post Office telephone 'after hours' provided the postmaster was available and upon payment of a one shilling disturbance fee.

..... the oldest house in Angmering is allegedly **Pigeon House** in the High Street with origins of about 1350.

..... the **Roundstone By-pass** was proposed in 1929 as a dual-carriageway. It was eventually built in 1935 - but only as a single road. We are still waiting!

..... in 1946, Miss Louisa Mant was elected as Angmering's **first female parish councillor**.

..... **electric street lighting** did not come to Angmering until 1964, some 35 years after it was first proposed. Twenty-one columns were erected and the cost put 2d on the rates!

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #6 (28 April). Did you know that?

.....**James & Maud Terry** who lived in the castellated house next to The Lamb (now demolished) had 17 children.

..... in the summers of the early 1920s before moving to Hartfield, **AA Milne** and his family rented Decoy Cottage in Angmering which is situated close to the ponds. In his autobiography, Christopher Robin Milne wrote that on the ponds was a swan which the family christened "Pooh", and this was originally the

name attributed to a swan in the Milne poem "When We Were Very Young". Apparently, the swan never came when called, and the Milnes often ended up saying "Pooh" to it. Later, some bear was given the name instead!

..... **Pooks Hill Cottage** in The Square was built in 1929 as a hairdressing salon and a tea lounge & garden.

..... in 1976, Angmering was twinned with the Normandy town of **Ouistreham-Riva-Bella**, the location of WW2 'Sword Beach'.

..... when he died in 1910, **Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Bt.**, the squire of Ham Manor, left one years' wages to each of his domestic staff.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #7 (15 May). Did you know that?

..... up to approx 1840 there was a **pond** in the middle of The Square. When The Square flooded it was necessary to use a rowing boat to get to the other side.

..... prior to present **Lamb** being built in 1780, there was another pub with the same name across The Square. This was re-named "The Red Lion" when the "new" Lamb opened - The Red Lion closed in 1932/3.

..... in 1952, Angmering Parish Council asked for a 2nd **police constable** to be appointed for Angmering!

..... in 1892, little Willie Peskett, aged 5, fell into the **culvert** (which carries the stream under the village) and was swept from the opening in Water Lane to where the tunnel exits near the Village Hall. He was unconscious when pulled out but an estate worker managed to revive him.

..... **Longback Cottages** in Arundel Road were built as almshouses between 1724 and 1728 with rents from 6d (*2½p today*) a week. They were sold to a private buyer in 1870.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #8 (1 June). Did you know that?

..... **Water Lane** originally only went as far as Dappers Lane. Then, in the early 19thC, the road was extended up to Patching Pond to enable the swift movement of troops from north to south in the event of a Napoleonic invasion.

..... In 1900, **The Green** in The Square was levelled, shaped and re-sown, with 9 elm trees being planted a few years later.

..... Until about 1830, Angmering had a coaching inn situated in the High Street called the **Rose & Crown**. This was then converted into three cottages which were demolished about 1924.

..... In 1908, Angmering Parish Council's **insurance premium** cost 3/6d (about 18p). In 2020, APC's premiums are £7,700 (excluding motor vehicle insurance)!

..... In 1900, the Parish Council erected 6 **oil lamps** in the village and employed a lighter who

was required to fill the lamps with sufficient oil to burn up to 10.30pm.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #9 (17 June). Did you know that?

..... During WW2, an **ack-ack gun** was located on the corner of Rectory Lane and Arundel Road to protect the village from enemy aircraft.

..... In 1935, Hesketh Estates bought **Ham Manor** and its lands and intended to build a residential estate there of 1000 houses, many in the fields just north of the A259. To date, only about 220 have been built.

..... **The Cottrells** (off the High Street) were named after an ancient field on the site which in 1400 was called "Coteleles croft". The houses there were built "for the working man" between 1912 and 1914 by Edwin Harris, the socialist builder, parish & district councillor, JP, and local historian.

..... In the late 19thC and early 20thC, a corrugated iron-clad **Methodist Chapel** stood on the corner of Weavers Hill and the High Street (*where Cornerways dentists are today*) although it was never recorded on maps.

..... In 1937, Goring Golf Course opened, later to be re-named **Ham Manor Golf Course**. Originally, 27 holes were planned.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #10 (8 July). Did you know that?

..... **Honey Lane**, off the High Street, was so named for the beehives that were kept there at the rear of properties in 19th and early 20th centuries.

..... In the 1930s, Upper Ecclesden Farm was farmed by Jorian Jenks, a trusted lieutenant of Sir Oswald Mosley and was quickly appointed the **British Union of Fascists'** agricultural advisor. He developed the Party's agricultural policy and became a prolific writer in BUF publications and other periodicals. He was interned when WW2 broke out. He promoted organic crop production and, in other circumstances, might have been considered as the father of today's Green Party.

..... In 1895, Angmering Parish Council considered roofing the village stray **animal pound** in Roundstone Lane for use as a tool shed for the District Council. A few years' ago, the base of the pound's wall could still just be seen

..... In 1934, a **seating gallery** over the North Aisle of St Margaret's Church was taken down in view of dwindling congregations. They would perhaps be grateful for it now!

..... The **Decoy Ponds** were made in the 16thC principally as fishponds but also for catching wild waterfowl. The western pond was known as Knucker Hole as it apparently has a deep hole from which clear spring water continually

riser. A "knucker" was a water monster and the most well-known one was at Lyminster.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #11 (29 July). Did you know that?

..... Angmering is an amalgamation of **three old parishes** – East Angmering, West Angmering and Bargham – formed during the Reformation. East and West Angmering churches (St Nicholas' and St Margaret's) stood only 100 metres apart. The boundary ran up Church Hill in Arundel Road.

..... **Cricket** has been played in Angmering for more than 200 years. In 1833, there was a match between Angmering and a team from other local parishes for a prize of 5 sovereigns (worth about £70 today).

..... In 1953, Walter Butcher, squire of Ecclesden Manor, bizarrely left most of his Angmering estate to the family of **Marshal Ferdinand Foch**, the French supreme commander of the Allied forces on the Western Front in WW1 who died in 1929. He was a great admirer of the Marshal. The family sold it to a local builder in 1965.

..... Before **Older's Charity School** (now the Library) closed in 1965 and moved to what is now St Margaret's School, the old building housed 165 pupils!

..... **Palmer Road** is named after the Rev. T L Palmer, rector of St Margaret's from 1923 to 1938.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #12 (27 Aug). Did you know that?

..... Angmering **War Memorial** was produced at the Mr Francis Tate's Carrara Marble Works of 22 North Street, Worthing. Francis Tate's invoice for the production and erection of the cross was £194 6s 0d. The Angmering firm Z. Peskett & Sons prepared the foundations for the Memorial at a cost of £10 5s 0d. The lettering on the war memorial has been attributed to the renowned designer and sculptor, Eric Gill who, in later life, was described as a blasphemous and incestuous degenerate.

..... During WW1, Angmering still had a **Rat & Sparrow Club**. I believe 6d (2.5p) was paid for anyone presenting the dead body of either creature.

..... The Boundary Commission review of 1979 saw Angmering's **southern boundary** moved back from Worthing Road, East Preston to the railway line.

..... In 1904, Angmering Parish Council expressed concern regarding cars **speeding down School Hill** (by the Library) in the direction of the Green.

..... After **Jerusalem Mill** in Mill Lane (not Old Mill Lane) was moved in 1848 and the nearby railway line was opened, the road's name was changed to Station Road.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #13 (17 Sept). Did you know that?

..... Unlike many churches, St Margaret's church has few **memorial brasses**. Its most significant is the one in the nave's floor dedicated to Eden Baker, wife of John Baker of Ecclesden Manor, who died in 1598 at the age of 23.

..... **Fletcher's Field**, next to St Margaret's Church, was given to the people of Angmering by Lady Aubrey-Fletcher in 1916 in memory of her husband Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, squire of Ham Manor. The land is held by a trust and managed by the Parish Council.

..... The northern parish boundary of Angmering extended up to the parish of Parham encompassing an area known as **Thornwick**. In 1933, this area was transferred to Burpham.

..... Most of the roads off the west side of **Roundstone Lane** are named after Angmering soldiers who died during WW1. The **Chantrelles**, however, is a corruption or misspelling of 'chanterelle', the mushroom that was grown by Darlington's there in the 20thC.

..... Until the 1840s, the **Black Ditch** stream openly flowed through a pond in the centre of Angmering causing regular flooding and disruption. The pond was drained and a barrel-arch culvert was built taking the stream underground through The Square.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #14 (6 Oct). Did you know that?

..... In the last 200 years, **Church Road** has also been called Church Lane, Church Walk, Bakers Row, Pook's Hill, and The Street (part of).

..... In 1945, after the WW2 had ended, Angmering Parish Council asked for the **anti-tank blocks** to be removed. These were 5ft x 5ft x 5ft concrete blocks which were part of a defence system of deep V-shaped ditches plus some blocks at its north end that surrounded the village to protect the population from enemy forces in the event of an invasion.

..... Up until about the mid-19thC, there was a pub called **The Leather Bottle** in Dover Lane. It was probably more of a beer house that served the agricultural workers. For them, a leather bottle was more practical than a glass one.

..... In 1950, there were complaints about **Angmering boys and girls** gathering by Fletcher's Field and shouting at the top of their voices, smashing windows, and using the air raid shelter "for doubtful purposes".

..... **Weavers Hill** is believed to have been named after some weavers who operated there. Historian Edwin Harris (1866-1942)

suggested that a terrace of houses, called Shoot-Shuttle Row, once existed in the field at the top of the hill. An 18thC map showed that such a row did exist but this was gone before 1800.

SOME ANGMERING HISTORY #15 (12 Dec). Did you know that?

..... At the rear of the **Old Baptist Chapel** on the hill in Station Road (see photo) there was a small burial ground. When the chapel was converted to private housing after 1970, the gravestones were removed to the new Baptist Church by Dell Drive, and they now line the wall on the eastern side.

..... The parish boundary between Angmering and Patching passes through **The Fox PH**. The bar and restaurant are in Angmering and the kitchen and other facilities are in Patching.

..... The pond and basin at the bottom of **Bramley Green** is a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS). When the developers commenced building BG, they found that much of it was a floating 2m of soil on top of considerable water underneath. They therefore had to sink a deep hole within the SuDS basin to drain off the water and prevent future flooding.

..... **Sir George Hutchinson**, founder of the well-known Hutchinson's publishing house, is buried in St Margaret's churchyard although prior to his death he lived in Rustington.

..... Generally, we consider that the Angmering parish boundary runs down to the railway line (with a few quirks). However, more than 30 acres of farmland on the far eastern side are within Angmering *south of the line*. This land was part of the historic **Ecclesden Lakes**.