



Wadhurst History Society

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Dear Friends of the Wadhurst History Society.

In these extra-ordinary times, I wanted to keep in touch with as many of you as possible and, therefore, thought an occasional News sheet would be a useful form of communication.

I hope you are feeling well, enjoying any opportunity in the sun and managing to fill the hours profitably. We have “mothballed” the Centre and it will be regularly checked though not open until further notice. All the talks and planned activities including the trip to Chichester have been cancelled as also is the Garden Party with the Brass Band. We are very grateful to the Phipsons and the Band who have been very understanding. We decided that was sensible and I am sure you will agree. Arthur has contacted all the speakers and some are already re-booked for 2022 and even on stand-by for 2021. We have not made any decision about the September onwards’ talks, as yet.

In my resolution to have a good clear out at home, that means trying to tidy cupboards, drawers and boxes of at least some of the mountain of paperwork which seems to have overwhelmed my house. My current thought is to do all the “jobs” in the mornings and spend the afternoon doing more enjoyable creative things – like painting (none done so far), practising the piano (none done so far), catching up on reading (some done so far) and generally relaxing. You know what they say about ‘the best laid plans....! I have made a list of all the things which have to be done by the end of the crisis – well, I have whilst going through envelope-files managed to find numerous documents to be archived for the Society and filed in due course. That is something you may find. When you get round to doing the Spring Cleaning, if you find anything relevant to Wadhurst which you do not want to keep yourself, documents or artefacts, please think of storing it/them safely for the moment and then passing it/them on to us when we are “let out”. You never know, it could prove to be the missing link in Wadhurst’s history.

If anyone finds useful material for the next Newsletter, do pass it on to me immediately and do remember that there are questions to be answered. Some of the Newsletters have been delivered; the rest are in the Centre and there is nowhere to distribute them from – my apologies for the moment. Meanwhile, however, here are the questions for which we would like answers or comments:-

- 1. What are the origins of these local names? Are they named after people, events or what?**

Faircrouch Lane
Brinkers Lane
Cockmount Lane
Jonas Lane/Drive

2. **Washwell/Sheepwash Lane:** When were the names changed and which came first? Why were they changed? Or..... or is this just another legend?
3. The story goes that **the village well** used to be in the banking down Blacksmiths Lane past Little Pell Farm i.e. between the bend and Keepers Cottage. This was where all the villagers apparently had to get their fresh water. (Does this mean from Wadhurst "Town" and not Durgates, Best Beech etc.). Have you heard of this? Are there any photographs? Any stories?
4. Why are the **Donkey Steps** so called?
5. There were two pubs in the Town named "**The Spotted Cow**" and "**The Vine**" but where were they originally located?
6. The **first School** for the education of the poor, the credit for which lies with Vicar Robert Barlow Gardiner, was built in 1840. Where was it built? Have you any further information?
7. Where was the football club started?
8. Why is **St James' Square** so called when the Church itself is dedicated to St Peter and St Paul?

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It would be good for future generations to understand what the impact of our current health crisis is having on ourselves personally and on Wadhurst or Ticehurst in general. Would as many of you as possible like to keep a diary/regular commentary of your reactions and feelings and what happens in our community? That really would be good.

My best wishes and those of the rest of the Committee to all of you. Keep well and positive and if you want to talk to someone, you have many of our 'phone numbers and e-mail addresses.  
Look after yourselves,



Heather