



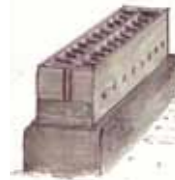
### RAF SELSEY 1943 - 1945

Used as a private aerodrome in the 1930s, this site was adopted as an ALG [Advanced Landing Ground] in 1942 in the face of strong opposition from the Ministry of Agriculture. On D-Day squadrons flew from here to support the assault on the beaches. In the ensuing weeks they provided escorts for bombing raids and continued to attack enemy bases and lines of communication. Units using ALGs were highly mobile and tents provided basic accommodation next to the churchyard at Church Norton. Planes were serviced in the fields. In 1945 the site was returned to grazing.



### ERIC COATES 1886 - 1957

Coates and his family lived in several different homes in Selsey between 1922 and 1957. His love of the area is highlighted in his autobiography. He considered the sea at Selsey to be 'as clear and warm as you would find in any south sea lagoon'. and described Selsey itself as 'this unpretentious village with its bathing, its glorious beaches and its life-giving air'. Hailed the uncrowned king of light music, he composed many popular pieces including 'The Dambusters March'. He composed 'By the Sleepy Lagoon' which became the signature tune for Desert Island Discs.



### THE MULBERRY HARBOUR PROJECT

When these massive sections arrived off Selsey one observer described the scene thus: 'As if someone had picked up Chicago and placed it down on the Sussex shore'. These large boxes, made of steel reinforced concrete, were divided into compartments, each with valves to allow controlled flooding and sinking. They were sunk off Selsey then re-floated - with a degree of difficulty which prompted a hurried visit by a concerned Churchill. They were then floated across the Channel for use as an artificial harbour for the D-Day landings in 1944.

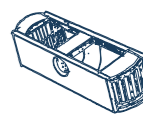


### IVY LODGE home of Colin Pullinger

In his early life Pullinger's intention was not to be a carpenter like his father and grandfather. But after seeking excitement serving in sailing ships around the globe and experiencing many dangers, including shipwreck, he resolved to use the talent he had been bestowed with - an inventive mind. In 1847 he inherited the family home and its neighbouring carpenter's workshops and settled back in Selsey to his inventive life.

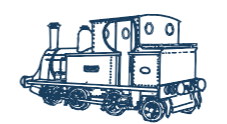
### COLIN PULLINGER 1814 - 1894

Pullinger was a jack-of-all-trades. His trade card read more like a complete directory of trades, but it was as a mousetrap maker that he became well known. The traps were unique because they were humane and self-setting so many mice could be caught before they had to be emptied. At full production nearly a thousand a week were made here. The traps were shown at international exhibitions in London and Philadelphia, selling all over the country and abroad.



### THE SELSEY TRAM 1897 - 1935

The 'Hundred of Manhood and Selsey Tramway' was a light railway that ran between Chichester and East Beach Selsey. Although only 9 miles in length, it had 11 stations or halts. The remains of those at Chalder and Hunston can still be seen today. Managed on a shoestring budget by its proprietor, Colonel Holman Stephens, it had a reputation for tardiness and badly maintained ancient rolling stock. These factors were to prove its downfall when it had to compete with the Southdown Bus service which kept better time and provided a more flexible door to door service.



### THE LISTENING POST early 20th Century

This Grade 2 listed property incorporates a first world war Acoustic Sound Mirror. Thought to have been constructed in 1916, of shuttered concrete, its purpose was to provide early warning in the detection of Zeppelin aircraft. Undergoing extensive renovation and extension by the proprietor to become a unique internal feature of an eco-friendly family home.



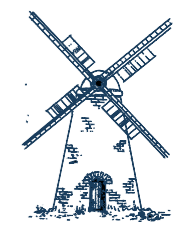
### R.C. SHERRIFF 1896 - 1975

Sherriff may have started his famous WW1 play 'Journey's End' while on holiday in Selsey. He stayed in this house, then named 'Windyridge'. Although his parents resided in several properties across the village, this one was renamed 'Journey's End' by its new owner Laurie Sargeant, who also owned the Selsey Hotel (which was opposite the house) - journey's end for many tramway passengers. Sherriff was a successful scriptwriter of such memorable films as 'The Dambusters', 'Goodbye Mr Chips' and 'The Invisible Man'.



### MEDMERRY MILL early 19th Century

Medmerry Mill is the last of a series of mills built near to this site. The first was probably tidal, replaced by windmills further inland, initially made from wood then, sturdily, from brick. In addition to grinding wheat, in its early days the mill was the centre of a salt industry and later it was used for cracking beans and rolling oats. The metal-railed gallery around the cap once gave the miller access for furling and unfurling the canvas sails.



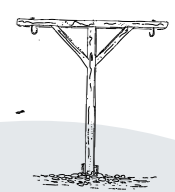
### EDWARD HERON-ALLEN 1861 - 1943

The entrance to Heron-Allen's house, 'Large Acres', was between the buildings here. He bought the site in 1906 and lived here for the rest of his life. The house was named after the ancient field where it stood. He was a close friend of Oscar Wilde. Many from high society and celebrities visited. A scholar of international fame, but best known locally for his classic local history: 'Selsey Bill: Historic and Prehistoric'(1911). In 1919 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for his work as President of the Royal Microscopical Society and studies of local marine life.



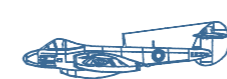
### GIBBET FIELD

In the 18th century, the smugglers - John Cobby of Sidlesham and John Hammond of Bersted - were members of the notorious Hawkhurst Gang. After a vessel of theirs, carrying a cargo of brandy, tea and rum, was captured at Poole, the smugglers raided Poole Custom House to recover their contraband. Following this raid two men were murdered by the gang to stop them informing on them. As a result seven gang members were tried and executed in Chichester and these two exhibited in Selsey, on high ground where they sometimes landed smuggled goods.



### TEDDY DONALDSON 1912 - 1992

Three of the Donaldson brothers became highly decorated pilots during the 2nd World War - all awarded DSOs. Teddy's was for leading a squadron at Dunkirk. Shot down nine times in the Battle of Britain, he still claimed eleven enemy planes. Later in the war he helped train the US Air Force in air combat and wrote a definitive manual on aerial gunnery. He broke the world air-speed record in 1946.



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

### SELSEY HERITAGE TRAIL

With thanks to Kim Leslie, former Director of the West Sussex Blue Plaques Scheme.

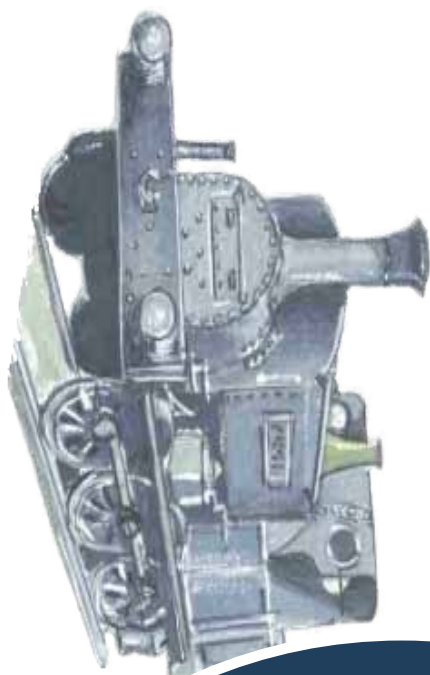
Joe Savill, Selsey Heritage Trail Coordinator, who is responsible for the display of Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group draws volunteers together in positive action for wildlife and the benefit of the community.

Contact [publications@mwhg.org.uk](mailto:publications@mwhg.org.uk)

Contributors to this leaflet  
MWHG Production Team  
© 2011 Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group  
© 2011 Illustrations P White and E Savill  
© 2011 Text J Savill, M Smith, G Smith, D Wakeham

Supported by  
West Sussex County Council  
Chichester District Council

### Three Selsey Walks Discover all the Blue Plaques around Selsey



## Walk 1:

Start from East Beach car park. Walk away from the sea-front, following the Selsey Tram Way signpost, along the path to the right of the car park entrance and go beside the pond to the exit (IBs). Turn right and walk along (East Beach Road) for about 100 yards. Turn left down Fontwell Road, continuing straight on to a T-junction. Turn left into Drift Road and walk to another T-junction (Manor Lane).

Take a stony track on the right (PF) with hedges on either side. Follow this to Park Farm Livery Stables (PF) then cross another stony track and walk through a gate, keep the stables on the right. Follow the concrete farm track until it veers off to the left. Continue ahead on the dirt track alongside a deep ditch.

At a gate where the track narrows, turn left (PF) to follow a line of tall trees on the left-hand side. Continue ahead at the end of the trees (PF) and then turn left, through a gateway, just after the first house on the left (Grange Lane). At the end of the lane, turn right at a T-junction (Rectory Lane) and walk along the road (no pavement) past the **RAF (1)** plaque which is on a plinth by a public footpath sign on the left. Continue down the road, with fine views of the distant South Downs, and turn left by Norton Priory to enter the small car park for St. Wilfrid's Chapel.

In the car park (IB), a wide track on the right leads directly to the shoreline of Pagham Harbour (IB). Turn right at the harbour edge, past a small wooded area and climb up a short rise, over a path laid with railway sleepers, to the top of a shingle ridge situated at the end of a fence on the left. Turn right and walk along a faint track, with the sea on the left, along the top of the ridge eventually reaching a breakwater. Carry straight on with the breakwater on the left to reach a house and a stoney track. Continue down this track and just past Park Copse turn left to go back to the shingle beach (PF). Turn right and walk along the shingle to join the sea wall (or to avoid walking on the shingle carry on along the track and turn left at the tarmac path back to the sea wall). The **Eric Coates (2)** plaque is here, by a bench, and the **Mulberry Harbour (3)** plaque is further along the sea wall. Turn right by the Fishermen's Huts to return to East Beach car park

\*\*\*\*\*

### Origins of the Blue Plaques

The idea of commemorating noteworthy people by blue plaques started in London in 1867. West Sussex started its own scheme in 1992. Selsey is special as nearly a third of the county's blue plaques are concentrated around the village where they have been used to create the Selsey Heritage Trail.

\*\*\*\*\*

All walks are described in a clockwise direction.

Maps: OS Explorer 120 Landranger 197

Key: (IB) Information Board (PF) Public Footpath

Toilets: Selsey Town ; East Beach Car Park ; Lifeboat Station ; Hillfield Road

Refreshments: Selsey Town ; East Beach.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Walk 1** Distance 5 miles Time 2-3 hours  
Parking East Beach Car Park GR 865934

**Walk 2** Distance 2.5 miles Time 1-2 hours  
Parking Budgen's Car Park GR 854935

**Walk 3** Distance 4 miles Time 2.5 hours  
Parking Hillfield Road Car Park GR 850923

Alternative start: Windmill at Bunn Leisure Holiday Park (no parking)



The walks can be linked together at A and B as shown in the map above

## Walk 2:

Park in Budgen's car park by the Selsey Football Club. Return to the car park entrance, turn left and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left to see **Pullinger** plaques on **Ivy Lodge (No. 59) (4)** and the **Town Hall (5)**. Return to the pedestrian crossing to cross back over the road and turn right along the High Street. Pass the Methodist Church, St Peters Church and at the mini-roundabout go straight on to the B2145 Chichester Road. Find a safe spot to cross the road and the **Selsey Tram (6)** plaque is on a plinth just beyond the bus stop. Turn right over a small stile (PF) onto a narrow footpath alongside the former tramway cutting which opens up into a wildflower meadow and grassy play area. As an alternative walk a little further along the B2145 and take a wider path (opposite the Police Station) on the right to reach the same area of open green-space (IB) – Manor Green Park.

In both cases carry straight on, either along a grassy track through the meadow or a tarmac path through flower gardens to the leisure centre building (the Selsey Centre)(PF). The tarmac path passes to the right of the Centre and continues straight across Manor Road to eventually reach Manor Lane. Turn right onto Manor Lane, cross the road and walk to the T-junction with Beach Road. Turn left to pass East Beach shops and you will see the **Listening Post (7)** (now a small private house) on a kind of traffic island ahead. To view this building from all sides walk around the 'island' clockwise, taking care crossing the rather complex set of road junctions.

Retrace your steps past the shops and turn left to walk back along Beach Road keeping to the left hand side of the road. Cross a small side road (Holford Green) and just after a bus stop the footpath curves to the left to join Manor Road. The **Sheriff (8)** plaque is on the front of No. 70 Manor Road. Cross the road at No. 60 and take the twitten (small path) opposite into Denys Close. At the T-junction with Malthouse Road turn left to follow this road to the High Street ignoring all side turnings. Turn right to the pedestrian crossing, cross the road and re-enter Budgen's car park.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Walk 3:

Park in the car park at the end of Hillfield Road. Return to the car park entrance and walk away from the sea along Hillfield Road and take the first turning on the left (Clayton Road). After a small 'dog leg' to the right stay on this road to reach a T-junction (West Street). Turn left then turn right after the coastguard station tower and follow the footpath on top of a low cliff with views across the sea to the Isle of Wight. Take care on this eroded path.

At the end of the fence take the path on the right to reach the windmill. Beware of uneven ground and the ditch on the left-hand side. At the windmill, **Windmill (9)** plaque, by the entrance to Bunn Leisure Holiday Park turn right and follow the road (Mill Lane) to eventually meet West Street again. Turn left at the junction (cross with care) and walk to a row of shops set back a little from the road.

Turn left into the slip road and go round the corner into the High Street. Continue down the left-hand side of the High Street to find the **Heron-Allen (10)** plaque on the wall of an estate agents just before the Neptune pub. Cross the High Street with care and turn down East Street at the side of the Crown Inn.

At a crossroads turn right into Grafton Road and follow a left-hand fork in the road (James Street). Turn left (PF) to follow a narrow footpath to the Lifeboat Inn and further on to the seafront and Lifeboat Station. Turn right and follow the promenade for about half a mile with the sea on the left. A plinth with the **Gibbet (11)** plaque can be seen here on a raised grassy area. At the end of the promenade turn sharply right (PF), along public byway (Oval Lane) to a crossroads. Turn right (Grafton Road) to the corner of the road first left (Seal Road) to find the **Donaldson (12)** plaque on No. 86. Retrace the route along Grafton Road, then straight on towards the nearby seafront. At the end of the wall on the right, turn right up one rather high step and then follow the coastline footpath all the way back to the Hillfield Road car park.

