

A trip to remember

# 2011 - ENGLAND

7 April 2011

EARTHAM

Heather's records relating to family in West Sussex go back many generations

## HEATHER'S HERITAGE



St Margaret's Eartham



Guard on duty



History and Charm - Eartham

“Can you tell me where the old vicarage would be?” asked the driver of the van. “Yes” said Heather “right across from the St Margaret’s church and just down The road from The George Pub.” We were in Eartham and had just spent an hour in the town wandering the narrow streets and checking out its two cemeteries. Eartham is an absolutely beautiful village and the pub was gorgeous too. George just happened to be the name of Heather’s great great grandfather who was born in Eartham. So was George’s father Arthur. These two were the criminals in Heather’s family. They were part of the Swing Riots and sent to Australia in 1831 (to Tasmaina initially and then pardoned as free men). They never looked back. George is buried in Melbourne General Cemetery and Arthur ended up in, of all places, Brisbane.

The gravestones we saw in the cemetery dated back to the 1700’s - or at least the ones we could read. Many were so eroded by weather and moss that we simply could not read the names or the dates. We did not come across any relatives but thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful location, the lush green grass, the splashes of daffodils and the birds chirping. The temperature was a very pleasant 23 degrees - rather like yesterday which we were informed today on the TV was the hottest April 6 on record. Great!!



*Handwritten note:*  
 24th October  
 18th - 21st Oct  
 October 21



**Relaxing in The George, Eartham**



**Spending time in Eartham**

**BOXGROVE**

Unknown to the world, except to the Nowak's, is the village of Boxgrove. Again this village has a history that Heather was very interested in. Her 4 x Great Grandmother (Hannah Poulden) was born here and may have spent time at The Priory - built over 900 years ago. Very impressive, as was the cemetery.

We drove on to find Binstead - a nearby hamlet with the same name as Heather's great great grandfather.



**The Priory - Boxgrove also known as St Mary and St Blaise**



**The ruins of Benedictine Monastery - Boxgrove**



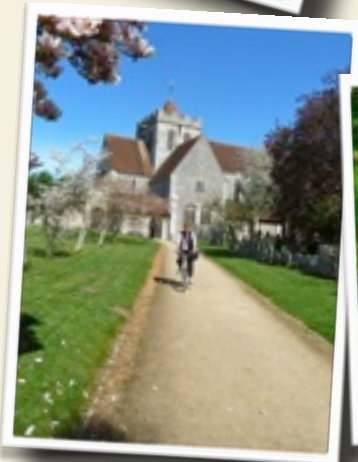


**Blooming beauty**



**A WONDERFUL DAY**

We enjoyed this day as we strolled and cycled through the villages and hamlets of West Sussex. The streets were narrow (many only a car wide) and the buildings very old but well maintained. Many times we had to squeeze our van past cars parked or partly blocking the road. Our bikes have been wonderful - we get to see much more than if we were walking. We parked where we found a space and then rode around. We met a number of people who were keen to chat with us about their particular town and the history.



At Boxgrove, in the back streets, we were invited in for a cuppa by June Leeks and at St Andrews church in Tangmere we learned from a local lady that the area was where Douglas Bader came from - the legendary WWII fighter pilot with no legs. There is even a nearby pub named after him. At the St Andrews cemetery we discovered over 50 German graves and a memorial to pilots who were shot down during the Battle of Britain.