

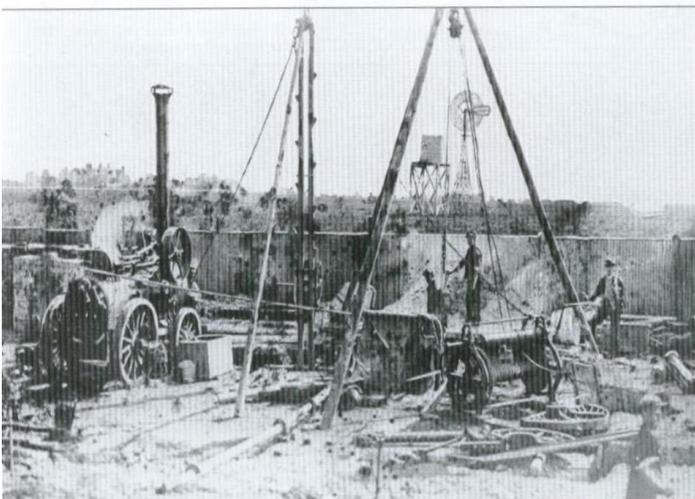
## Rustington Convalescent Home



Rustington convalescent home situated on Sea Road next door to the Wave Leisure Centre is a grade 2 listed building. It was purpose-built in 1897 by Sir Henry Harben, President of the Prudential Assurance Company, and Master of the Carpenter's Company. In 1893, he purchased 17.5 acres of farmland near Littlehampton in Sussex, and he was actively involved in planning the Home with the architect Frederick Wheeler. He was a philanthropic gentleman and paid for the land and building out of his own pocket. It was funded by his and his daughter's dividends from the Prudential. His connection to the Worshipful Carpenters Company ensured its future.

Members of the Court are Governors of the Home, which still derives 50% of its income from an endowment established by Sir Henry and later enhanced by a gift from his daughter Mrs Mary Woodgate Wharrie.

51 Site preparation and well-boring for the Rustington Convalescent Home, 1896.



Preparation for the construction of the home in 1896

The Home was designed as a place where working men could convalesce after an illness or accident and enable them to become fully active again. It was bequeathed to the Carpenters' Company when Sir Henry died in 1911. He had the idea that overworked Londoners could be brought down to the coast to benefit from the sea air. He thought if they came to the coast for sea air this would help with their 'chest problems' and be able to get back to being the family bread winner and look after their families. This was before the NHS and welfare system was conceived.

It was open only for men but in nineteen eighties the momentous decision was taken to allow women in initially as spouses but then women in general were allowed to stay. It took the Governors a long time to make this change as Sir Henry was adamant the home should be for working men.

Now, over 100 years after it first opened, Rustington is fully modernised and welcomes both men and women of all ages and from every walk of life for rest, recuperation, and respite care.

Sir Henry's original vision lives on, and thanks to his generous endowment Rustington continues to offer affordable convalescent care without compromising on the quality of the services it provides. The home has been closed for the last two years for refurbishment and the Covid pandemic. It is hoped to reopen later in 2021.



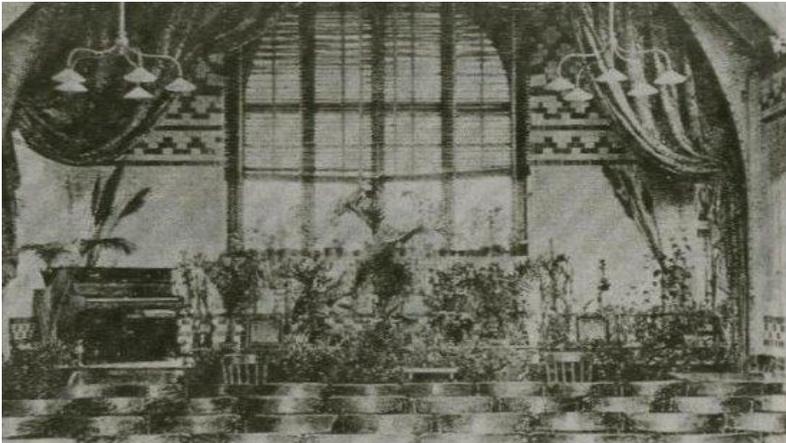
The home in 1910 with patients outside



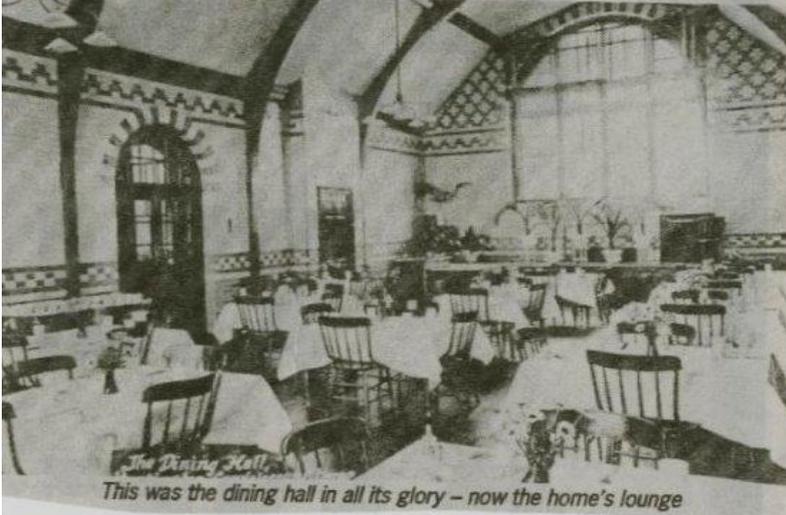
1912 men who came to Rustington to convalesce with donkey and cart



Means of transport between the home and station c1913. Sea Road was not made up until the 1930s.



*BIXINGTON CONValesCENT HOME. — The Entertainment Hall.  
An old picture of the home's entertainment centre — now a snooker room*



*The Dining Hall.  
This was the dining hall in all its glory — now the home's lounge*

Inside the Home in 1912.

Top is the entertainment room and below the dining room.



1937. the home was flood lit for the celebrations of King George IV coronation.

The Home today 2021



Acknowledgments: The Carpenters Company, David Ruffle

2021