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John Jervis campaign

This was for the election of 1847 held on July 29th in which Mr John Jervis was the liberal candidate. He was standing against Mr Seymour Fitzgerald.

Mr Jervis was elected MP for Horsham but the results were disallowed due to corruption on both sides. In fact the 1847 election was seen at the time as Horsham's most corrupt election and Henry Burstow named it '*One of the most notoriously drunken and corrupt elections in the United Kingdom.*' When another election was called in 1848 Mr Jervis did not stand.

It is likely that Mr John Jervis was baptised on the 27th May 1827 at St Margaret's Church Westminster, although this is not proven. He was the son of John Jervis 12/1/1802-1/11/1856 a liberal politician, lawyer, law reformer, judge and Attorney General in the administration of Lord John Russell. He was the son of Thomas Jervis liberal member for Chester 1832-1850.

It is not known if Mr Jervis ever lived in Horsham. He was, however, related to Mr George Broadwood and his son Colonel R G Broadwood of Holmbush. Despite concerns he was too young he was still accepted and fought the election against opposition candidate Mr Fitzgerald and won.

Seymour Fitzgerald 1818-1885 was the illegitimate son of an Irish statesman William Vesey Fitzgerald MP for Clare so was not eligible to inherit the title. He bought the Holbrook Estate from Mr Robert Hurst (former Horsham MP) who put his Estate up for sale in 1844 then went abroad without resigning his parliamentary seat to escape his debts. The Estate was sold with the suggestion that whoever bought it would become the parliamentary representative in Horsham.

He was supported among others by Mr Lintott, who was the largest and richest tradesman in Horsham and Mr Henry Michell the Brewer.

Resources:

Albery W. 1927 *A Parliamentary History of Horsham 1295-1885* Longmans: United Kingdom

Albery, W. 1947 *A Millennium of Facts in the History of Horsham and Sussex 947-1947*

Knight, J. 2006 *Horsham's History Volumes 1,2,3.* Horsham Museum Society

Neal, K. 1975 *Victorian Horsham The diary of Henry Michell 1809-1874*

Burstow, H. 1911 *Reminiscences of Horsham* Published by the Free Christian Church Book Society Worthing Road, Horsham.

