

1998.1442

### Extract from Mr Fitzgerald 3<sup>rd</sup> Address

This was issued as a pamphlet in the 1847 election against Mr Fitzgerald, who had claimed to support *everyone's* political views. It states that he claimed to be independent when his views were very conservative. This must have been issued by Liberal Party supporters.

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. When he bought the Holbrook Estate, therefore, he did not think he would be challenged in the election. In the past the Horsham was a 'pocket borough', in the 'pocket' of the most influential person in Horsham, such as the Dukes of Norfolk or the Irwins, who chose the candidates. The Reform Act of 1832 and the loss of Horsham's Borough status, however, had brought this to an end and Fitzgerald was challenged for the seat by Liberal John Jervis.

Mr John Jervis (liberal candidate) 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.

Whilst Mr Fitzgerald owned property and did involve himself in the affairs of Horsham 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. He was baptised 27th May 1827 at St Margaret's Church, Westminster and even though he may have been too young he was still accepted and fought the election against Mr Fitzgerald and won.

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.*' In fact the election was declared so corrupt on both sides, it was disallowed and a new election was held the following year in which Jervis did not stand.

#### Results:

Mr Jervis wins 1847 election by 164 votes to Fitzgerald's 155

Mr Jervis was unseated on petition July 29<sup>th</sup> 1847.

Mr Fitzgerald was unseated on petition June 29<sup>th</sup> 1848

Whole election declared corrupt and new election held:

Lord Edward Howard seated Sept 2nd 1848

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.