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Election of 1841

This election was between Mr Robert Henry Hurst, candidate for the Liberals, and Mr Robert Cambell Scarlett candidate for the Conservatives.

This poster suggests that the Duke of Norfolk was supporting Mr Hurst, a supposedly Liberal Reformer free from Ducal influence, so was probably issued by the Tories. There were many people still in Horsham who had resented the Duke's domination of the town and would not vote for anyone aligned with him.

There was free drink given out to party supporters and bribery. The last two elections had been very close and this suggested to some electors that they could put a high price on their vote and although neither candidate responded to their overtures they decided to hold out until the last minute. Unfortunately for them their expectations were disappointed as neither candidate was prepared to submit to them.

On the Sunday before Nomination day Mr Hurst wrote to Mr Scarlet that he was resigning because several electors who had promised him their support were now with-holding it.

On Monday 28th June Mr France deputy sheriff acted as returning officer proposed Mr Scarlett and Thomas Coppard seconded him and he was duly elected unopposed.

He sat in Parliament for under three years when in April 1844 his father died and he succeeded to the peerage and sat in the House of Lords.

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.