

# The Researcher

Newsletter of the  
West Sussex Archives Society  
The Friends of  
West Sussex Record Office

Website: [westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net](http://westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net)



July 2013

No. 82

## A SEAL OF THE 'WHITE QUEEN'

West Sussex Record Office holds a deed from Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV, the 'White Queen'. Seals of Elizabeth Woodville are very rare – this is one of only two in this country.

Elizabeth Woodville (c. 1437[1] – 8 June 1492) was Queen consort of England as the spouse of King Edward IV from 1464 until his death in 1483. She is currently the subject of the BBC series 'The White Queen'.



*The Seal of Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV*

## Forthcoming

### Events

September 15<sup>th</sup> - A talk entitled 'Limeburners, Lords and Labourers' by Richard Howell to be held at WSRO

September 20/21 - Local History Book Sale

October 12<sup>th</sup> - Conference on the Petworth Emigration Scheme to be held at Wisborough Village Hall. Speakers include; Susan Millard and Alison McCann

November 9<sup>th</sup> - A workshop on the subject of Military History and Records held at WSRO by Matthew Jones.

Any queries about this newsletter or questions for West Sussex Archives Society please email [wsascom@btinternet.com](mailto:wsascom@btinternet.com)

Edward IV married her in 1464, a marriage that caused some scandal as her family were not well-known, and it was very rare for the monarch to marry one of his own subjects (rather than making an alliance with a foreign country). The wedding took place secretly probably in May 1464. Elizabeth's children included the Princes in the Tower and Elizabeth of York. The latter married Henry VII, after he defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Consequently she was the grandmother of Henry VIII, and great grandmother of Edward VI, Queen Mary and Elizabeth I.

The deed shows Elizabeth letting the Treasurer and Vicars of the Cathedral of Chichester keep the £3 commonly called the Queen's Gold owed to her on certain lands given to them by John Arundell, late Bishop of Chichester.

The seal shows a heraldic shield in the centre. On the left hand side (as one looks at it) are the arms of England (3 leopards / lions) and France (3 fleurs de lis). On the right hand side the heraldry is divided into six parts, indicating that it belonged to Elizabeth Woodville.

The deed is on show in the Searchroom of West Sussex Record Office during opening hours (Monday – Saturday, 9.15 am – 4.45 pm, closed Saturday lunchtimes) until the end of July.



For further information, please contact Dr Caroline Adams on 01243 753625, or email [Caroline.adams@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.adams@westsussex.gov.uk)

## Update from the Record Office

As I write, we have said goodbye to Alan, and the task of writing this issue's update falls to me. Currently we do not have a County archivist in post, but she has been chosen, and it is to be Wendy Walker, who is presently at East Sussex Record Office. Wendy has been project managing the Keep, the new building for ESRO, so she brings with her a wealth of knowledge and a drive to achieve brilliant things! I will ask her to introduce herself in the next Newsletter.

We said farewell to Alan at one of our inimitable staff parties. We have said goodbye to so many people over the last five years that it was hard to find something fitting. Alan himself solved the problem by saying what he really wanted was fish and chips. And so that's what we did, serving fish and chips to forty-six past and present members of staff, sitting at tables in the reception area of the Record Office, with bunting and various reminders of beach holidays around us. The fish and chip van was parked up on the paving outside the front door, and two ladies managed to give all of us excellent fillets of cod and real chips in 25 minutes flat! Afterwards we went into the searchroom for a talk by Alan on forty years of being an archivist, filled with stories of the sheer joy of meeting the variety of people that you come across in this profession, and of the changes that have taken place in that time. Bill gave a very moving tribute to Alan, and Clare had acquired some photos of Alan in the past – Alan was always quite shy of having his photo taken, so that was no mean feat. The staff gave Alan some vouchers for garden furniture and various trinkets with in-jokes attached to them! Alan's collection broke all records.



Of course WSAS owes a great deal to Alan. Over the years he has continually offered the Society support and time, from being on the committee in the 1980s to the care and encouragement he has given as County Archivist. He has contributed to the Newsletter, attended meetings, and given me much advice and support. The WSAS committee wanted to show that they fully appreciated his support, and so we have done three things. We have offered Alan and Pam life membership of the Society; we gave them both, as a retirement present from the Society, a year's membership of the National Trust; and thirdly we asked Alan to become a Vice-President of the Society. This doesn't mean he has to do anything but turn up to the occasional meeting, but it does give the Society some standing to have his name on our official documents.



Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Bill is the lead manager and the four senior staff (Bill, Matthew, Simon and myself) are having regular discussions on the day to day business of the Record Office. Lesley Sim, the Information Services Manager, is in regular contact. She has a keen interest in the Record Office, and will even be fetching and carrying documents from Petworth with me. (The archives remain the property of Lord Egremont and, as such, are stored at Petworth House. However, there is no access to the archives at Petworth and all requests to view documents must be submitted to staff at West Sussex Record Office, who arrange to have the documents brought back to the Record Office for consultation by researchers.) The work of the Record Office is even greater at present. We are active members of joint projects with Graylingwell Hospital consortium, the Chichester Festival Theatre Heritage project, Screen Archive South-east, the Cathedral Library and the 'Friends and Travellers' project. In-house, we are continuing with the Quarter Sessions project, and we are currently hosting the 'Speaking Up for Disability' exhibition, which runs until the end of July. We are planning an extension at the back of the Record Office, an 'Open Day' in September and will be participating in the 'Accreditation' professional scheme from this autumn.

Caroline Adams

## Sad News

The well-known and popular local historian Ron Kerridge passed away on June 13th. Ron was the author, often writing with Mike Standing, of many local history books on Lancing, Broadwater, Worthing and Ferring. Ron has also presented at WSAS meetings past. In his early life Ron was an outstanding sportsman winning several Sussex javelin titles. He also excelled at football and was a very fine goalkeeper who played for Sussex and won a Sussex Senior Cup Medal. In mid-life Ron turned to marathon running and on one occasion completed a 100 mile marathon! I had asked him once, how on earth he came to run a 100 mile race and I saw a glint come into his eye. He explained that he used to run marathons alongside a colleague and they used to dare each other by entering longer and longer races. Before the 100 miler there had been an 80 mile canal-side marathon. After the 100 mile race Ron explained that he most certainly needed the help of his wife Theresa to get into the car, and even more of the family were required to help him get out of it! In all Ron ran over 100 marathons, an incredible achievement it seems to me. One of Ron's latest interests was Sussex token coinage and Sussex School attendance medals. His last writing was on the subject of School attendance medals and appears in the WSAS sponsored book 'A Very Poor Attendance Today'. Ron will be missed by many, many friends.



Barrie Keech

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### **LOCAL HISTORY BOOK SALE - 20/21 September**

The book sale this year will be for 2 days only - Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September at the Record Office. The sale will open from 09.00 to 16.30. Amongst the books for sale there is a high concentration of books on Worthing, Chichester and Horsham as well as local history from other parts of Sussex. Please help us by ensuring that anyone who might be interested in buying books is aware of the sale.

# Events Review

## One Sunny Afternoon in June

On 8th June 2013 21 members & their guests gathered at Loxwood for an afternoon cruise on the Wey & Arun Canal aboard the converted narrow boat, the Zachariah Keppel.

The canal is 23 miles long and was built to link the River Wey in Surrey with the River Arun in Sussex and thereby provide a navigable route from Portsmouth into the heart of London. In 1813 an act of Parliament, backed by the 3rd Earl of Egremont, authorised the building of the canal and it was complete by 1816 at a cost of £103,000. It provided a safe and relatively swift route for military supplies to the fleet at Portsmouth during the Napoleonic Wars and also carried agricultural produce to the London markets at a time when the Sussex roads were notorious for their poor condition and slow journey times.

Unfortunately, the arrival of the railways in that part of Sussex in the mid-1860s caused an immediate decline in the use of the canal, which simply could not compete on either price or journey times. The Wey & Arun Canal was an early victim and was abandoned in 1871. The original landowners had the opportunity to buy back the land they had sold when the canal was built some 60 years earlier, and most did so at a much lower price.

The canal was gradually reclaimed by nature, the route was filled with silt and the Canadian Army used Devil's Hole Lock as a demolition practice site prior to the Dieppe Mission in 1942.



*Negotiating Loxwood New Lock*

Then in 1971, The Wey & Arun Canal Trust was formed with the intention to reopen navigation along the entire length of the canal. Considerable progress has been made and agreements have been reached to restore the canal with about half of the current landowners along the route.

Our cruise began at Loxwood, travelling north through the tunnel beneath the new B2133 road bridge and onward to Devil's Lock, the present northern limit of navigation on this stretch of the canal. There then followed a tricky reversing manoeuvre and a four-point turn before returning to Loxwood. From there we explored to southern route of the canal, passing through Brewhurst Lock before arriving at Baldwin's Knob Lock where many disembarked to have a close view of the lock gates. The Zachariah Keppel passed through the lock, did a three point turn and then re-entered the lock for the journey back to Loxwood. A total journey time of about 2½ hours.

It was a most enjoyable afternoon, in beautiful spring sunshine and there was a most informative commentary throughout the voyage, given by Jim Phillips, vice-chairman & treasurer of the Trust.

To conclude the afternoon, we all enjoyed a cream tea in the garden of the Onslow Arms.

Marion Woolgar



And afterwards ...a cream tea at the Onslow Arms

## WSAS joint meeting with FESRO at Bishopstone

On Saturday 15th June, around forty members of WSAS and FESRO (Friends of East Sussex Record Office) met for the afternoon at Bishopstone, north of Seaford in East Sussex. It was a beautiful day, but blowy. We met at Little Halland, the home of the poet James Hurdis. We looked around the exterior of the house, a beautiful 16th-century building which was once on the two thousand acre Bishopstone estate of the Pelham family. At the back there was a small courtyard, with the remains of a high wall which had once encircled the whole estate. It was always a large house, with additional wings being added in the 1870s and 1880s.



*Attendees looking at the archaeological site near the church*

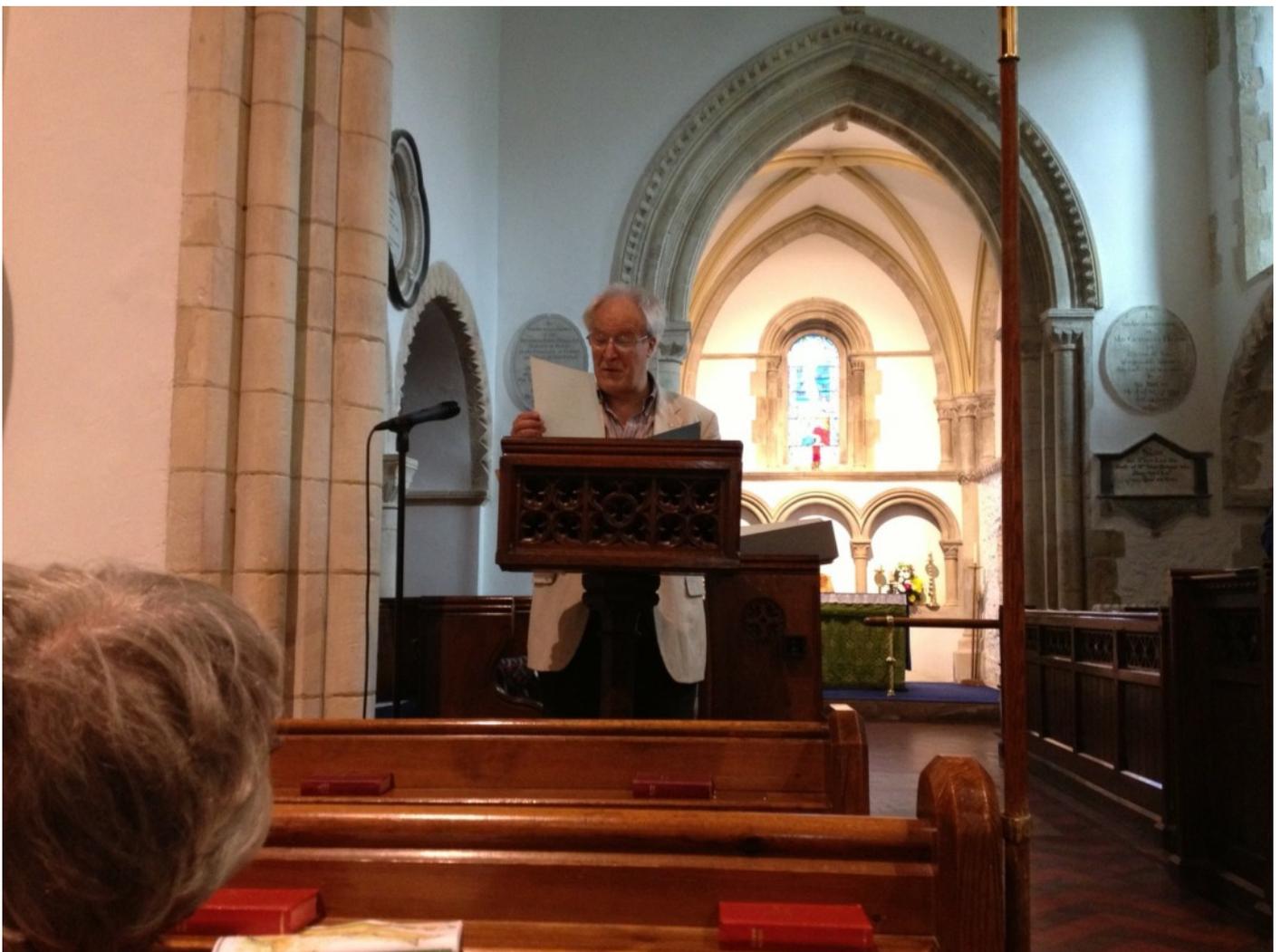
Christopher Whittick, who has written the ODNB entry for Hurdis, told us something of his life. Hurdis seems to have spent his life antagonising all he met, and the only people who lived up to his expectations were his sisters – to whom he was so close that his two year marriage to Harriet Taylor failed. Indeed, his misery after his sister Catherine died seven years before, caused him to resign his living and return to his mothers and sisters at Bishopstone. He made various attempts to procure a living at Oxford University, but preferment came too late, as he died just as he was newly installed as the vicar of Buckland in Berkshire. Hurdis is best known for his poem *The Favourite Village* a 'tender eulogy' of his birthplace and the downland surrounding it.

We also looked at the farmhouses nearby, also 16<sup>th</sup> century. My impression of the village was of a beautiful place to live in, high on the Downs, encircled by countryside but with a view of the sea. Nearby was the beginning of a walk on the Downs, and I was told that once a walker is up there it is possible not to see houses or other people for several miles.

We then went back down the road to Bishopstone itself. We visited the field next to the church, where important archaeological excavations had taken place, to reveal an Anglo-Saxon manor, possibly belonging to an early Bishop. We went into the church itself, where James and his sisters were buried. The church also has wall paintings and some early graffiti on one of its pillars, showing a knight (possibly St George) killing a dragon, and a little devil running away.

The day ended with the usual splendid cream tea that FESRO are so good at building into their joint meetings.

Caroline Adams



*Christopher Whittick at Bishopstone*

## Events Programme 2013

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Sunday 15th September. 2.30 - 4.00pm at WSRO an illustrated talk given by Richard Howell entitled 'Limeburners, Lords and Labourers'. An illustrated talk on the chalk and lime industry that once dominated the Arun Valley. It traces the history of the industry back to mediaeval times and explains why chalk was so important to the local economy, why the great landowners were so anxious to exploit it and the part it played in the development of the local canal and navigation systems.

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Saturday 12th October. A conference on the subject of the Petworth Emigration Scheme to be held at Wisborough Green Village Hall.

Arrive 10.00am for 10.30am start. Ends 4.00pm.

The morning will consist of two talks exploring the Swing Riots and the Petworth Emigration Scheme. Both speakers, Sue Millard and Alison McCann, are archivists, and will refer to local records illustrating the impact of these two issues on the West Sussex society and economy.

Lunch is not provided but local hostelrys include *The Three Crowns* and *The Cricketers*

In the afternoon there will be readings of letters sent home by emigrants on the scheme

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Saturday 9th November. A workshop on Military History and Records to be given by Matthew Jones, to be held at WSRO.

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Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Get Together at WSRO.

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There may be occasions when members wish to attend an event but feel they cannot due to transport limitations. Please do not be deterred, we would encourage you to book the event and indicate with your booking slip that you can only attend if it is possible to obtain a lift. Could we also ask please, that any members coming to an event who feel they could give a fellow member a lift let us know with their booking slip. We can then do our best to marry parties together. Thankyou.

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### *WSAS Committee*

<i>Caroline Adams - Chairman</i>	<i>Helen Whittle - Journal Editor</i>
<i>Richard Martin - Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Richard Mant - Committee Member</i>
<i>Paul Guest - Treasurer</i>	<i>Helena Millen - Information Manager</i>
<i>Stella Elliot - Secretary</i>	<i>Leigh Lawson - Administrator</i>
<i>Barrie Keech - Newsletter &amp; Website</i>	<i>Richard Howell - Committee Member</i>

All contactable using [wsascom@btinternet.com](mailto:wsascom@btinternet.com)

Further Society information is available at the website:

[westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net](http://westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net)

# Booking Slips

**Any query about any event please contact: [wsascom@btinternet.com](mailto:wsascom@btinternet.com)**

**Events can also be seen at: [westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net](http://westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net)**

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Sunday 15th September. 2.30 - 4.00pm at WSRO an illustrated talk given by Richard Howell entitled 'Limeburners, Lords and Labourers'. An illustrated talk on the chalk and lime industry that once dominated the Arun Valley.

Costs £3 to members & £5 for non-members

Name/s of members attending.....

Tel No..... Email.....

Name/s of non-member/s or guest/s.....

Amount paid, cheques made payable to WSAS.....

Please return slip as soon as possible to, The Honorary Treasurer, WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN

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Saturday 12th October. A conference on the subject of the Petworth Emigration Scheme to be held at Wisborough Green Village Hall.

Arrive 10.00am for 10.30am start. Ends 4.00pm.

Costs £12 to members & £15 for non-members

Name/s of members attending.....

Tel No..... Email.....

Name/s of non-member/s or guest/s.....

Amount paid, cheques made payable to WSAS.....

Please return slip as soon as possible to, The Honorary Treasurer, WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN

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Saturday 9th November. A workshop on Military History and Records to be given by Matthew Jones, to be held at WSRO.

Arrive 10.00am for 10.30am start. Ends 4.00pm.

Costs £8 to members & £10 for non-members

Name/s of members attending.....

Tel No..... Email.....

Name/s of non-member/s or guest/s.....

Amount paid, cheques made payable to WSAS.....

Please return slip as soon as possible to, The Honorary Treasurer, WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN