

The Researcher

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

Website: westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net



July 2014

No. 86

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Richard Mant was elected as our new chairman at our AGM in April. His last professional appointment was Head of the Careers Department at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. He was for many years a specialist in careers education and guidance and higher education, but he never let go of his long-standing interest in history.

Richard has a degree in history from the University of London and a Post-graduate Certificate in Education from the University of Exeter. At Exeter, he studied the teaching of history and was very fortunate to have C P Hill (formerly Head of the History Department at Bristol Grammar School and the author of a number of books on history) as his tutor. He was also lucky to be sent to Queen's College, Taunton for his teaching practice where the Headmaster was a historian and where the Head of the History Department, P J Helm, was currently writing books on history. In other words, the place was buzzing with history, and therefore very supportive of a new entrant to the teaching profession.



Forthcoming Events

July 22nd An evening presentation at WSRO by Alan Green entitled *1714 and all that - Chichester under the Georgians*.

September 14th A talk by Tom Dommett on the Archaeology of Petworth Park to be held at WSRO.

October 11th WSAS Conference to be held at Fernhurst Village Hall entitled *The North-West Corner of West Sussex - a revealing view of its past*.

Any queries about this newsletter or questions for West Sussex Archives Society please email wsascom@btinternet.com

After Queen's, Richard taught history in a grammar school, a comprehensive, various prep schools, as well as RGS Guildford.

In addition to the above, Richard is a qualified Scout Leader, sailor, rugby referee and hockey umpire, all of which he pursued throughout his teaching career and he is still active in many of these activities now.

Richard comes from an old West Sussex family. His parents were interested in history, especially family history, but it was not until Richard moved to Cranleigh that Chichester and WSRO became more accessible. He first visited WSRO (then at Ede's House) in January 1979 and he has been a regular visitor ever since, though a busy job in Guildford kept him from joining WSAS until retirement. In addition to his family's history, his current interests include the Deposition Books, manorial records and the north-west corner of West Sussex where he is actively involved in planning the WSAS October conference.

Richard and his wife, Jane (also a WSAS member), have two children. Their daughter, Sally, is a lawyer and their son, Alastair, is a Chartered Surveyor.

Record Office Update

The summer months at the Record Office are proving to be a very busy period and one which is heralding a time of change with the imminent departure of Caroline Adams, our Collections Manager. Caroline joined the staff of the Record Office in 1994 as the Senior Archivist responsible for outreach, having previously worked for the West Yorkshire Archive Service in Wakefield. Since then she has become a mainstay of both the Record Office and WSAS, serving on the Committee and as Chairman of the latter until the last AGM. Over the last 20 years she has made a huge contribution to the history of West Sussex and we will all miss her energy and enthusiasm, her commitment and hard work and her extensive knowledge of the county and its archives. Her successor will have a very hard act to follow.



We are very pleased to welcome Holly Wright to the Record Office as our new Search Room and Research Service Assistant and you will find an article by Holly in this newsletter. Holly has been with us since April and already feels like part of the team

(and I hope that she feels the same way!). David Milnes, our Technical and Search Room Assistant, will be retiring in September, after over 10 years of dedicated service and will be much missed. At the same time one of our Archivists, Sue Millard, will be taking flexible retirement but continuing to work on a part-time basis. Sue is another long-standing and much valued member of staff, having joined the office in 1990, and I am really pleased that we will all be able to continue to benefit from all of her experience and expertise for a while longer.

With the anniversary of the start of the Great War fast approaching the Record Office has been very busy with preparations to commemorate the events of 1914-1918, including those who served in battle as well as those who provided support on the home front. Over the past few months we have been compiling a 1914-1918 Time Line to display along the walls in Reception and in our Search Room. Designed by Clare Snoad, our IT Officer and a member of staff of many talents, with contributions from everyone at the Record Office, it features national and local events alongside details of the deployment of the Royal Sussex Regiment and the battles in which they fought. It is illustrated with documents and photographs from the RSR Archive and other collections and looks very impressive as you come into the building. So do come along to see it and tell us what you think. We are producing extracts from the time line as a series of posters, each featuring three months of the war. These will be displayed around the county over the next four years and copies are available to purchase from the Record Office. We are hoping to encourage people to buy one and then collect the set.

WSRO staff took part in the West Sussex and the Great War event at Edes House in Chichester on 22 June, when the new exhibition and website were launched. Members of staff were on hand throughout the day to provide help and advice on family history, military ancestors and war hospital and staff, past and present, contributed to the rolling programme of talks throughout the day. The exhibition has been at WSRO for the last two weeks and is now touring libraries throughout the county for the next eight months. This event was the culmination of a major HLF funded project led by WSCC Libraries in partnership with the Record Office and you can find further details on the West Sussex Past Gateway, which has a link to the new Great War West Sussex website (<http://www.westsussexpast.org/>).

Finally on the same theme the new *Great War Britain: West Sussex* book is due to be published on 4 August. Edited by Martin Hayes, the Local Studies Librarian for West Sussex, it features contributions from Alan Readman, Caroline Adams, Katherine Slay amongst many others. It will be available to purchase from the Record Office and from WSCC Libraries next month.

2014 seems to be a year of anniversaries. Alan Readman gave a wonderful talk on D Day at the Record Office at the beginning of June to commemorate the 70th anniversary. Alan Green will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of the start of the Georgian period in his talk for WSAS at the Record Office on 22 July. This year also sees the 175th anniversary of the founding of Sussex County Cricket Club and we will be displaying some of the items from the Duleep Singh Archive later in the summer.

Wendy Walker

Get to know Holly Wright

My name is Holly Wright and I am the new Searchroom and Research Service Assistant at the Record Office. I originally come from St Albans in Hertfordshire but for the last 10 years my family and I have lived on a farm in Bideford, North Devon. I have a BA (Hons) and MA in Archaeology from the University of Exeter, where I spent time on field schools in Greece and North America. I then went to the University of Lincoln to read for an MA in Conservation of Historic Objects, where I volunteered part time at the Lincolnshire Archives conservation department and spent 3 months on placement at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter.



In 2013 I moved to the Lake District to take part in a year-long traineeship scheme at the Wordsworth Trust, where I gained experience working with rare 18th and 19th century book and manuscript collections and participated in community outreach projects for a local World War I exhibition and poetry reading sessions for people with memory loss and dementia. I also worked in Dove Cottage, giving guided tours and helping to care for an historic house.

I moved to Chichester at the end of March and have already indulged in visiting numerous local historical and archaeological sites! I am thrilled to be working at the Record Office, have joined the West Sussex Archives Society and am really enjoying getting to know everybody. I hope to become an archivist in the future.

HELP SOUGHT WITH *SUSSEX:WEST* PEVSNER GUIDE

Work has started on a companion volume to **The Buildings of England, Sussex: East** (2013). The new **Sussex: West** will retain the distinctive flavour given to the West Sussex section of the original **Sussex** guide (1965), while adding information and insights. The volume will include the part of East Sussex transferred to West Sussex in 1974.

Can you help us? We would be very grateful for information from Friends of the West Sussex Archives, including corrections, ideas for new or overlooked places, notable buildings or church furnishings and facts about them, and contacts able to give access to notable buildings. (It is made clear in the book that descriptions do not indicate a building is open to the public.) If you are able to help or advise, please contact us at pevsner.westsussex@gmail.com or send your contributions to Elizabeth Williamson c/o Yale University Press, 47 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP. Follow us on Twitter [@pevsnersussex](https://twitter.com/pevsnersussex) and read about the series at www.yalebooks.co.uk.

The Editor is Elizabeth Williamson, a former *Buildings of England* deputy editor, assisted, as local researcher, by Dr Tim Hudson, well known to Friends as a past Editor of *Victoria County History, Sussex*.

Court of Common Pleas

No not that one! These are the pleas of your WSAS committee.

We are in need of additional committee members who can bring fresh ideas on a range of subjects especially fund-raising. There is a particular vacancy on the committee of secretary which we desperately need to fill. This is not an arduous role and mainly involves taking minutes of the committee meetings and AGM, preparing agendas for these meetings (in conjunction with chair), preparing other AGM paperwork (nomination forms etc with chair, treasurer etc), responding to letters and other correspondence. The main commitment is 6 evening meetings a year at WSRO and the AGM (somewhere in the county), preparing the agenda before and writing the minutes afterwards.

Our second plea is for storage space. As most of you are aware one of our most successful fund-raising activities has been the booksale. There is no longer space within the record office to store books as they accumulate for a booksale. We are looking for suitable temporary storage for books in the Chichester area.

Another plea of your WSAS committee is for your email addresses where you have them. Wherever possible we wish to distribute our newsletter, *The Researcher*, electronically. Electronic distribution saves WSAS money and obviously that money saved on postage can be used to further help the record office.

Yet another plea for any research you may have done that you feel others may well be interested in. Ideally we would like *The Researcher* to carry some articles produced by our members.

Our last plea is to those of you *Facebook* oriented. WSAS now has, as well as the website a *Facebook* page:

<https://www.facebook.com/westsussexarchivessociety>

Please if you have an opportunity take a look!

Some Dates for the Diary if your interest is the Great War

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 26th July | Great War poetry & prose readings,
by the Silk Road Writers, Worthing Library 2.30pm |
| 6th August | Coffee time session on army records (for family historians)
by Matthew Jones, West Sussex Record Office 10am |
| 27th August | Crawley's first casualty – the Battle of the Aisne - October 1914
by Tim Stanton, Crawley Library 1.10pm-1.50pm |
| 3rd September | Great War West Sussex: The Home Front
an illustrated talk by Martin Hayes, Hurstpierpoint Library 7pm |

Events Review

A VISIT TO THE WEALD AND DOWNLAND MUSEUM AT SINGLETON ON MAY 10th 2014

About 20 members, including one from the Friends of East Sussex Record Office, braved the high winds and threatening rain to perhaps wander around the 50 acre site, prior to meeting in the upper room of the Crawley Hall, a sixteenth century hall house.

We were introduced to Danae Tankard, a social historian, who is researching the history of shopping in the seventeenth century. Danae opened her talk with a splendid slide, depicting the shops in East Street, Chichester during the seventeenth century. Some were a medieval style of night-shuttered, small shop with an outside counter in the sill, and others were larger shops with an inner room displaying goods, with an outer glass window.

Shopping was defined as looking, comparing and enjoying the various displays of goods, while purchasing was the actual exchange of money.

Purchasing was interestingly shown by a slide of some pages from the account book of the Rev. Giles Moore of Horsted Keynes. It detailed the many types of cloth, and the small items required, to assemble a garment by hand. This needed purchases from many sources, for example from sellers of fastenings, buttons, hooks and eyes, and skins for lining breeches. Giles would shop if necessary in East and West Sussex, and perhaps in the Royal Exchange or Cheapside in London. In addition to the source of his purchases, he detailed the price and name of the type of cloth or item.

The mercers, the cloth sellers, were in the business of selling many grades and types of wool, cotton and leather, and were associated with many workers, eg tailors, cutters, dyers, embroiderers and others who assembled the garments. Mercers also sold remade garments, second hand clothing and ready made items. They also sold items to adorn the basic garment, such as ribbons, feathers or furs.





The bulk of the population would use this method for clothing purchases, whereas the upper classes would possibly use imported silk and have in-house tailors and maids.

Probate inventories of the time revealed the value of clothing, which was often marked in case of theft.

However the poor used itinerant pedlars who were often associated with mercers for their supplies. These roving sellers were

also found at fairs and markets, selling various small items to adorn dresses and also small household goods. They were later controlled by Parliament.

The church was involved in purchasing clothing for the clergy as well as for the needy. Various jails, homes and orphanages supplied clothing for the inmates which was suitable for the work they did.

Danae gave us a fascinating glimpse of the retail shopping experience which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Pamela Jeffery



Members eagerly await Danae's Presentation

An Amble Around Amberley – The Pearl of Sussex

Unsure if it would pour with rain or turn out fine, fifteen of us met outside the village school in Amberley for a guided walk around the village armed with macs and umbrellas which happily were not needed as the clouds moved away.

Richard Howell, leader of the walk, who has been researching the village for some years, gave an introduction on the early history of the settlement. Amberley is one of the oldest named places in Sussex, being mentioned in a charter of 683 AD, when the Saxon king of the time granted 10,000 acres of land in Amberley and Houghton to St. Wilfred, who had converted the people of Sussex to Christianity. Much of the parish would remain in the ownership of the Bishops of Chichester until well into the 19th Century.

We then set off to wander along the winding lanes of the village stopping every now and again while Richard told us the history of a cottage or its inhabitants.

Accompanying Richard and adding to his commentary was Grahame Joseph, chairman of the Amberley Society and we were fortunate to have two such knowledgeable guides.

Originally the main thoroughfare through the village was by the lane that leads from Rackham along the ridge above the Wild Brooks. The current main road from Storrington running at the foot of the Downs was constructed as a turnpike and was built in 1812 making it possibly the earliest known by-pass.



This bypassing of the village left it a backwater and in a time of agricultural depression the dwellings could easily have fallen into disrepair had it not been for the expanding chalk and lime industry on the banks of the Arun nearby at Houghton bridge. Chalk was quarried at the Amberley chalk pits (now an open air industrial museum) and many of the workers lived in the village thus saving it from decay. Since the coming of the railway in 1863 the picturesque village has been the haunt of artists. The former home of Edward Stott is still known as Stott's Cottage and artists live in the village to this day. At one time there were several shops and pubs that

have all now been lost. However the Village Shop has opened as a community run enterprise and thanks to the efforts of an action group there are plans to reopen the Black Horse that has been closed for some time and was previously threatened with conversion into dwellings.

Many of the cottages are timber framed dating from the 16th century, some still thatched. A fine example of early 19th century stonework can be found at the home of Jane Woodforde, whose artist husband, Samuel Woodforde RA, was the nephew of well known diarist Parson Woodforde. Richard had some interesting theories as to how she came to be living in a house of quality, having apparently started life as a servant girl. Farms and barns still survive in the heart of the village, one such belonged to Henry Humphrey of Drewetts Farm who farmed 1,000 acres and ran Amberley Mill sited up at High Titten.

Richard led us down past St Michael's church to the foot of the castle walls overlooking the Wild Brooks. Amberley Castle is really a fortified Manor House, and was formerly a hunting lodge of the Bishops of Chichester, the castle walls being erected as late as 1377. The Bishops ceased using it in the middle of the 16th Century, around the time of the Reformation, after which it was leased to tenants, and became a working farm until the end of the 19th Century, when it was sold by the Diocese and became a private residence. In 1988 it became a luxury hotel. Rock Cottage, a thatched cottage which stands close to the castle walls was probably the old Amberley poor house. From there you can see across the river Arun to the spire of Bury church. The Wild Brooks are a designated site of Special Scientific Interest.



At the end of the 2 hour walk we were welcomed into Grahame's beautiful garden for warming cups of tea and coffee where we enjoyed the views across to Amberley Mount and admired the pond edged with wild flowers and orchids. Thanks to Richard Howell for a very informative and enjoyable walk. It was a wonderful evening and we all agreed that Amberley is indeed The Pearl of Sussex.

Leigh Lawson

Events Programme 2014

Tuesday 22nd July. A presentation by Alan Green entitled *1714 and all that - Chichester under the Georgians* to be held at WSRO beginning 7.00pm. Ideally you will have booked but if not we can still welcome you at the door

Sunday 14th September. A presentation by Tom Dommett entitled *The Archaeology of Petworth Park* to be held at WSRO beginning 2.30pm.

Saturday 11th October. This year's WSAS Conference intends to explore and learn more about the north-west corner of West Sussex. It is entitled "The North-West Corner of West Sussex – a Revealing View of its Past." It will be held at Fernhurst Village Hall, on the Midhurst /Haslemere Road (A286). Speakers include Dr Caroline Adams and members of the Harting Society and Lynchmere Society. There will be static displays by the Fernhurst Society, the Lynchmere Society and WSAS.

Arrive at 10.00 am for a 10.20 am start; the conference ends at 3.35 pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided throughout the day. Bring a packed lunch or there are two pubs in the village: the Kings Arms on the Midhurst Road, or the Red Lion on the Green, down Church Road.

On entering Fernhurst on the A286 from the south, the village hall is on the right. There is room for 14 cars to park round the outside of the hall, plus one disabled parking bay. Once these parking slots have been taken, please park in the village car park which you enter by driving beyond the village hall to the cross roads in the middle of the village where you turn left into Vann Road, then first left into Crossfield, at the end of which is the car park. There is a footpath to the village hall.

Saturday November 8th . A workshop on Chichester Festival Theatre. Further details will follow in regard to this event.

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. Thank you.

WSAS Committee

Richard Mant - Chairman

Leigh Lawson - Vice Chairman

Paul Guest - Treasurer

Vacant - Secretary

Barrie Keech - Newsletter & Website

Helen Whittle - Journal Editor

Stella Elliot - Committee Member

Helena Millen - Information Manager

Richard Howell - Committee Member

All contactable using wsascom@btinternet.com

Further Society information is available at the website:

westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net

Booking Slips

Any query about any event please contact: wsascom@btinternet.com

Events can also be seen at: westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net

Tuesday 22nd July. A presentation by Alan Green entitled *1714 and all that - Chichester under the Georgians* to be held at WSRO beginning 7.00pm.

Cost £3 members £5 non-members

Names of members attending.....

Tel No.....Email, or home address.....

Names of non-members.....

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

Please return slip by July 8th, to WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN

Sunday 14th September. A presentation on *The Archaeology of Petworth Park* given by Tom Dummett to be held at WSRO beginning 2.30pm.

Cost £3 members £5 non-members

Names of members attending.....

Tel No.....Email, or home address.....

Names of non-members.....

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

Please return slip by September 1st, to WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN

Saturday 11th October. The WSAS annual conference: "The North-West Corner of West Sussex – a Revealing View of its Past." To be held at Fernhurst Village Hall. 10.00 am to 3.35 pm.

Cost: £11 for WSAS members, £14 for non-members (to include tea, coffee and biscuits, morning and afternoon).

Names of members attending.....

Tel No.....Email, or home address.....

Names of non-members.....

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

Please return slip by September 20th, to WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN
