

# The Researcher

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

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



October 2014

No. 87

## RECORD OFFICE UPDATE

As the glorious September days come to an end and the nights draw in it is time to reflect on the past year and to start to plan for the year ahead. As I look back on my first year in post and ahead to the next, one of the main things that stands out for me is the importance of partnerships. Partnerships seem to be the key to everything that we do and firmly embedded in all that we achieve.

First and foremost are the relationships with our depositors and our users, often built up over many years, which ensure that the archives are preserved and can be made accessible to current and future generations. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to those who have entrusted their archives to our care and to those who continue to work on our behalf to ensure that archives are discovered and brought into the Record Office. Those in turn who use the archives also contribute a great deal. Many are long-standing researchers and regular visitors to the Search Room. Others are discovering the myriad joys of archives for the first time and

## Forthcoming Events

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

November 8<sup>th</sup> Chichester Festival Theatre Workshop including backstage tour.

December 13<sup>th</sup> WSAS Christmas Get Together



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

Chichester Observer 21st June 1974  
(40 years of WSAS support for WSRO)

make us think anew about the collections as we try to help in finding the answers to a whole range of questions and queries. Our User Group in particular provides us with excellent support together with regular feedback and ideas so that we can provide the best possible service at the Record Office.

Screen Archive South East (SASE) has been a long standing partner at the West Sussex Record Office, where the film archive itself is stored and SASE staff carry out work on their collections. If you have not yet explored the SASE website do look at their screen search page to find out about the films that they hold (<http://sasesearch.brighton.ac.uk>). Thanks to SASE we are able to ensure that any films that come in as part of an archive, can be expertly conserved and stored. We are also able to work on joint projects together and include film footage in our talks and outreach events.

Alongside this are the partnerships that have been developed with our loyal and impressive band of volunteers. Every week you will see volunteers hard at work in our search room helping to make the archives more accessible by listing, transcribing and indexing whilst others help behind the scenes by cleaning, packaging and digitising records. Many have been with us for a number of years and we are very grateful to everyone who gives up their spare time to help us in this way.

Volunteers also play a vital role in many of our partnership projects including the fascinating Graylingwell Heritage Project, which started this year, the Great War Project with West Sussex Libraries, in which 150 volunteers participated, and the hugely successful Chichester Festival Theatre (CFT) Project, Pass It On, now in its third year. Pass it On is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is a joint project between the Record Office, the Festival Theatre, and a number of other partners including the University of Chichester, the University of Portsmouth and local schools. A key part of the project consists of organising and making the CFT Archive accessible at WSRO. The archive includes over 50 years of posters, programmes, photographs and production records as well as records relating to the history of the building and film footage and oral history recordings.

WSAS members will have an exciting opportunity to learn more about the Festival Theatre Project at our November Event when we will be joining forces with the Friends of the CFT at the theatre itself. In the morning there will be a tour of the newly refurbished theatre and a chance to go back stage and see behind the scenes. In the afternoon there will be a presentation on the archive project, an opportunity to meet some of those who took part in it and to see some of the fascinating archives. As this event is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund Project it will be free to WSAS members but numbers will be limited so remember to book your tickets as soon as you can!

Following on from this we are welcoming Nick Corbo-Stewart to the Record Office as the Chichester Festival Theatre Archivist for the next eighteen months. Funded by the project, Nick will be working on all of the box lists compiled by the volunteers to turn these into an online catalogue and make the archive fully accessible in our Search Room.

And finally our partnership with WSAS of course goes back over 40 years and is one of the most enduring and rewarding relationships of all. Long may it continue for the next 40 years! (see picture on front)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

## World War One Posters

We have just published the second in our series of West Sussex and the Great War posters covering the period September – November 1914. Based on our Time Line on display at the Record Office, it features events at home and abroad, including details of life in Sussex and the activities of the Royal Sussex Regiment. These posters will continue to be published throughout 2014-2018 and are available to purchase from the Record Office (£15 for A1 and £5 for A3).



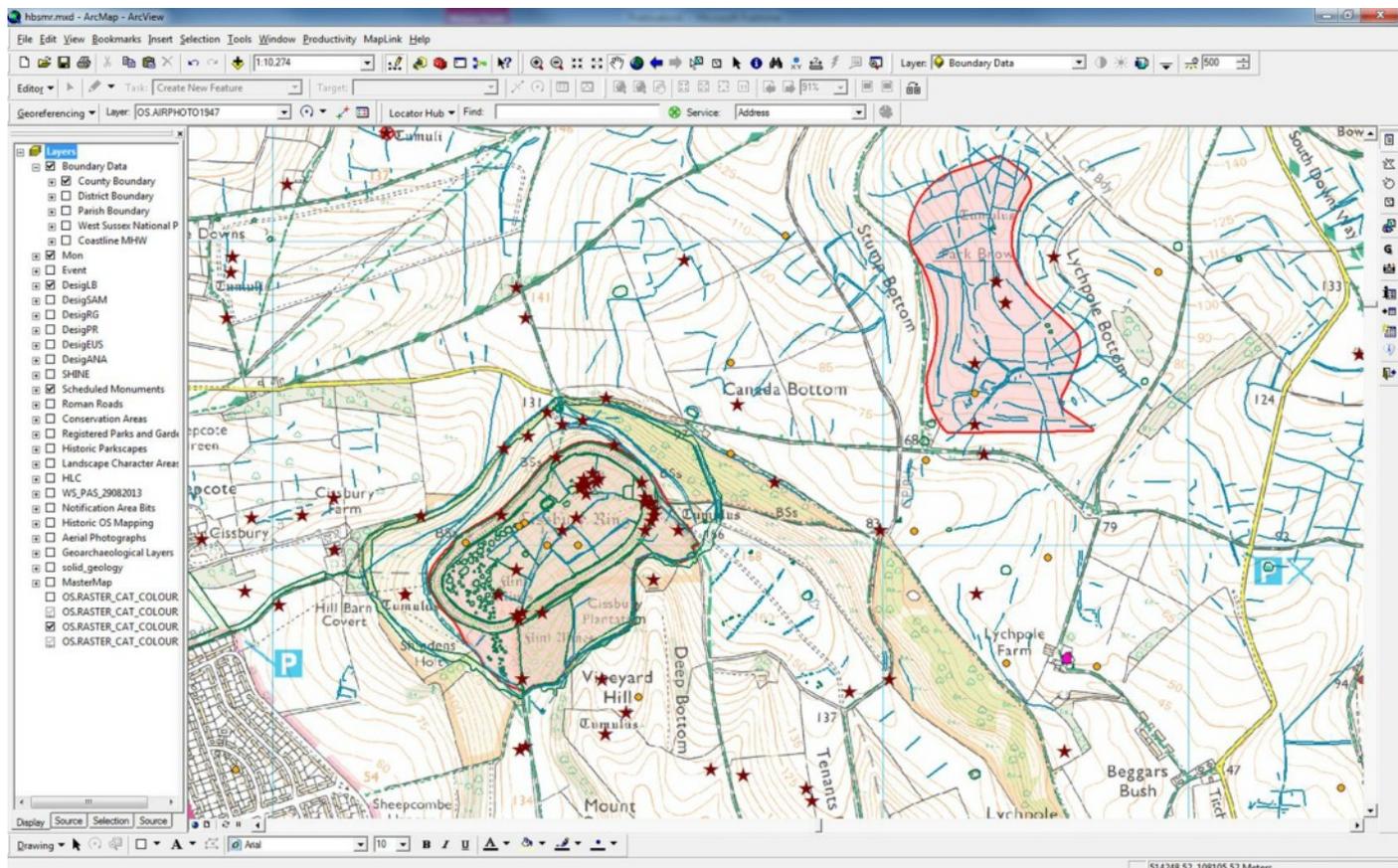
*Reception WWI Timeline*



*Searchroom WWI Timeline*

## Archaeology in the Search Room: HER Surgeries with Rachel Salter

On 31 October, 9.30-1.00, Rachel Salter, the Historic Environment Records Officer for West Sussex, will be holding the first of a series of monthly surgeries in the Search Room. Rachel will be available on the last Friday of every month to help people with their research and provide access to the Historic Environment Record (HER). A full interview with Rachel will appear in our next Newsletter.



*Example of a Historical Environment Record showing Cissbury Ring*

## The Taxidermist's Daughter by Kate Mosse

Do look out for this brilliant new publication from West Sussex resident and co-founder and chair of the Orange Prize for Fiction (now the Baileys Womens Prize), Kate Mosse. The novel is set in Fishbourne and Kate carried out some of her research at the Record Office, ably assisted by our own Katherine Slay, who gets a well-deserved acknowledgement in the book, as do our two receptionists, Amanda and Corinne. Kate will be giving a talk about her book and her research at the Record Office on **Monday, December 1st at 7.00pm. Please book early to avoid disappointment.**

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## Important Notice

As this is our last mailing to our membership for 2014, we have included both Membership Renewal and Grant Aid Forms and Standing Order Forms, together with the Researcher and the Journal. Membership renewals are due on January 1st 2015.

# WSAS CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE EVENT

## SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2014 11.00-4.00

Come and join us and our partners from the Chichester Festival Theatre to find out more about the CFT Archives and the Archive Project, Pass It On. As well as a tour of the theatre there will be a presentation about the project and you will have the opportunity to meet some of those involved and to see and handle some of the wonderful theatre archives that have been discovered. Come and find out for yourself what these records can tell you and the stories that they reveal.

11.00-12.00 Backstage Tour (meet in the Theatre Foyer)

12.00-1.00 Break for lunch (you will need to bring a packed lunch or go out into the town)

1.00-4.00 CFT Archive Project Event (in the Pimlott Building at Chichester Festival Theatre)

This event is being held as part of the Heritage Lottery funded project and is therefore free to WSAS members. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.



**CHICHESTER  
FESTIVAL  
THEATRE**



*The Chichester Festival Theatre Project Partners - Pass It On*

## Events Review

### 1714 and all that - what the Georgians did for us

On the evening of July 22nd Alan Green gave a wonderful presentation, greatly illuminated with humour and poetry, entitled *1714 and all that - what the Georgians did for us*. Alan set the scene by reminding us that 2014 was the tercentenary of the Georgians coming to power.



George I Elector of Hanover ascended the British throne in 1714 following the death of Queen Anne. George I, however, did not have the closest blood relationship to Queen Anne but he was critically, a Protestant. There were over 50 Catholics with closer blood relationships to Queen Anne but the Act of Settlement of 1701 prohibited Catholics from inheriting the throne. George apparently never learnt to speak English and was rather more content to spend his time in his native Hanover. This regular absence created the opportunity on the political scene for important figures such as Sir Robert Walpole to emerge and effectively gain the influence and prestige of Prime Minister though this title was not officially recognised at that time. Alan made use of a verse from the book of poems *Kings and Queens* by Eleanor and Herbert Farjeon to illustrate just how Germanic George the first was -

*George the First, till he was dead,  
Still his prayers in German said.  
Wasn't that a funny thing  
For one who was an English king?*

These were very troubled times for the Georgians as the House of Stuart still had many sympathisers especially in Scotland. It had been only in 1688 that King James was deposed and the Protestant William and Mary (James's daughter) claimed the throne. Murmurings of discontent festered and surfaced in two major Jacobite uprisings in support of the Stuarts. In both 1715 and 1745 the Scots took up arms in support of the Stuart cause. It was the 1745 uprising that caused particular panic and George II in London was said to have had his valuables packed on board a boat on the Thames when the Jacobite army had reached Derby. However this was as far as the Jacobites came and they made the decision to retreat and retreat until ultimately defeated at Culloden.

It just seemed to be a fact of life with the Georgians that fathers and eldest sons would never get on. So it was that George I appeared not to trust his son and heir apparent George; George II found himself at odds politically with his son Frederick and is quoted as saying at the end of 1751 (the year Frederick died) "This has been a fatal year for my family, I lost my eldest son - but I am glad of it"; George III, thrifty by nature was always at odds with his son George (aka Prinny) who was constantly in debt over his extravagance.

Clearly the Georgians brought with them a new influence upon architecture. Perhaps the most outstanding example might be the Royal Crescent, Bath. The impact of these new designs was felt in Chichester too, as many medieval timber-framed jettied buildings (buildings where an upper floor projects beyond the dimensions of the floor below) acquired a new Georgian style fascia. This led to many disputes in Chichester as the parish realised in making these changes owners were grabbing a piece of existing pavement!

Alan also covered the lives of some eminent Chichester residents including John Marsh (1752-1828) and George Murray (1759-1819). John Marsh (born Dorking) dabbled in many things but he was probably best known as a composer. He organised many subscription concerts especially in Chichester across 35 years. We are especially indebted to him for his volumes of journals which are invaluable sources of information on life and music in 18th century England. George Murray or Vice Admiral Sir George Murray KCB was born in Chichester in 1759. His house survives as the Ship Hotel in North Street. He served under many notable commanders during his career and got on especially well with Nelson. Only by chance did he fail to serve under Nelson at Trafalgar. He was once a captive of the French where he used his time to learn the French language. Once retired back in Chichester he held many positions including at one time Mayor. There are blue plaques within the city to celebrate the lives of both men.

Alan ended his talk with George IV, declaring that although William IV was a Hanoverian the Georgian times were pretty much over as fashions and trends were already beginning to move toward the Victorian era.

Barrie Keech



*George II*



*George III*



*George IV*

## **Petworth Park's Hidden Past**

On Sunday 14th November, members of WSAS gathered at the Record Office to hear a fascinating and well-presented talk on the archaeology of Petworth Park given by Tom Dommett, Regional Consultant Archaeologist for the National Trust and director of the archaeological excavations which are being undertaken as part of the Petworth Park Restoration Project. This 3 year project, funded by the Monuments Trust, is to understand the history and archaeology of the 280 hectare park in order to care for and preserve it for future generations. Information and artefacts from the project, as well as a printed 3D map of the park from LIDAR scan data, are currently on exhibition in the Servants' Quarters at Petworth House, and are well worth a visit.



*Tom and visitors in one of the trenches*

Tom gave us a run down on the types of archaeological work that have made up the project; the vital first stage of desk-based research such as studying historic maps, aerial photographs and documentary research of the Petworth House Archives. These vast archives are equivalent to about one-third of the entire collection at the Record Office, so certainly contain a wealth of information about the history of the house and the park. The project has also undertaken more practical work in the park itself: geoarchaeological surveys and geophysical surveys such as resistivity, magnetometry and LIDAR scanning. LIDAR is a relatively new surveying technique, which scans the landscape, effectively building up a model of the terrain, stripping away vegetation and picking up features that otherwise may not be seen. Through these various scanning and mapping surveys, a complete plan of all the features found in the park

has been made, demonstrating what a rich and complex history Petworth Park has. The major part of the project has involved excavations over 9 days in July 2013 of the 'lost' North Wing and further excavations in July of this year of a possible castle/tower/banqueting house/hunting lodge of King Henry VIII (the jury is still out on this one!).

Tom also took us through the history of the ownership of Petworth House (most notably, the Percy family of Northumberland and King Henry VIII) and the expansions and alterations of the landscape that have occurred over the centuries. Some of the many interesting changes to the landscape at Petworth included the expansion of the park into the village of Tillington (where the old medieval field systems have been

picked up by the LIDAR laser scanning) and what could have been the largest stable block in the country, built by the 9th Earl of Northumberland. Internationally renowned, it had stabling for 120 horses and its own riding school incorporated into the building. This building was later torn down by the 6th Duke of Somerset, who redesigned the landscape and built another (possibly even grander) set of stables. In the 17th Century, the Earls of Egremont enclosed more land into the park and further designing of the landscape was carried out with the help of the renowned landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Elements of prehistoric archaeology have been found as well as the discovery of World War Two archaeology; several Canadian camps were set up in the park during the war.

The artefacts from the excavation are currently undergoing analysis; hopefully more information can be gleaned from them. It is hoped that further excavations on the possible banqueting house can be continued next year, as well as starting work on finding the 6th Duke's magnificent stable block.

Throughout the talk, Tom spoke admirably of the volunteers who have assisted him during the project. A dedicated army of volunteers, like we have at the Record Office, are so invaluable to such projects; with the added benefit for them to gain training and experience in a range of skills such as archaeological fieldwork techniques. They also received palaeography training (study of old handwriting) at the Record Office, which is of great use when deciphering the earlier Petworth House documents. Tom gave a most enthusiastic and detailed talk on the project, including some excellently presented PowerPoint slides, which invited many questions from the audience and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Holly Wright



# Events Programme 2014

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Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> . The WSAS Chichester Festival Theatre Workshop. Discover a lot more about the theatre archive and the current Heritage Lottery Funded project. Meet in the theatre foyer.

11.00-12.00 Backstage Tour (meet in the Theatre Foyer)

12.00-1.00 Break for lunch (you will need to bring a packed lunch or go out into the town)

1.00-4.00 CFT Archive Project Event (in the Pimlott Building at Chichester Festival Theatre)



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Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>. The WSAS Christmas Get Together for members and their guests to be held at WSRO from 10.00 am to 12.00 midday. Mince pies, wine and chance to ask those questions you have been itching to ask of the County Archivist. The event is FREE but we need to know numbers so please complete the booking form.



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There maybe 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.

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## *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](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)**

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The workshop is FREE, but has limited numbers so you must let us know if you are coming

Names of members attending .....

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

Names of non-members.....

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

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Names of members attending.....

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

Names of guests.....

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

