

The Researcher

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

Website: westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net



July 2016

No. 94

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WEST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE 1946-2016

This year we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Record Office and there is much to report. The Record Office was originally set up in 1946 at County Hall before moving to Edes House in 1968 in order to accommodate the ever growing collections. Our current new purpose-built Record Office was opened in Orchard Street in 1989 where it now houses over 8 miles of archives dating back over 1200 years.

In order to celebrate the achievements of the last 70 years and all of the wonderful archives that we hold, we decided to ask our staff, past and present, our users, depositors, volunteers, supporters and friends, including WSAS members, to nominate their favourite archive. We then chose 70 of these to publish in a special Anniversary booklet. This was published on Sussex Day, 16 June, with sponsorship from the Sussex Family History Society, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude for their generosity. We are now busy distributing copies across the county and if you haven't got yours yet do pick one up or ask for one at the Record Office, or from your local Library.



We have also set up an accompanying on-line blog together with a Facebook page and Twitter account. Each of the 70 archives that have been chosen will be featured in our blog on a rolling programme between now and our Anniversary Open Day on Saturday 12 November. The blog will enable us to give more details and images about each archive so do take a look and follow us on-line as we showcase three of these fascinating documents a week. First to go up was our earliest documents the Oslac charter of 780, chosen by Caroline Adams, former Collections Manager at WSRO and a previous Chairman of WSAS. Look out for the document chosen by our

Forthcoming Events

September 4th - Christopher Whittick talks about the Battle Abbey Archives

October 15th - WSAS Conference "The Wonders of Chichester Cathedral and its Records"

November 26th - WSAS Workshop entitled "Manors and their Records"

December 10th - WSAS Christmas Get Together

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

current WSAS Chairman, Richard Mant, a fascinating 17th century manorial record that helped him to fill in many gaps in his family tree.

Blog: <https://westsussexrecordoffice.wordpress.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WestSussexRO>

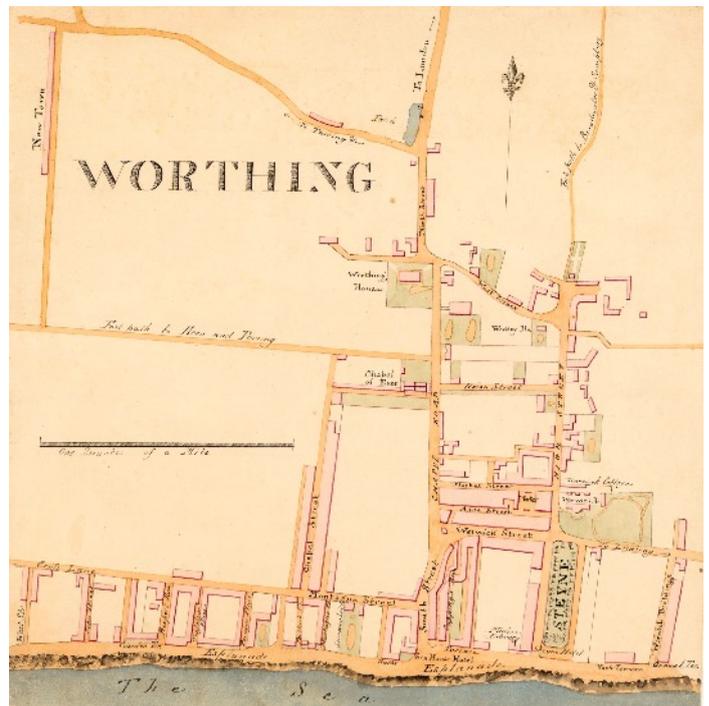
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestSussexRO>

We were overwhelmed with ideas when we first started to think about possible candidates for our 70 archives. Sadly we could not include all of them and I am very grateful to all of the WSAS members who sent in their ideas. I will be writing to all of those whose choices did not make the final cut but we could perhaps keep these in hand and think about ways of featuring them in the longer term. After our Open Day in November we will certainly want to look at ideas to build on our anniversary activities for the future.

For those of you who haven't got a copy of our booklet yet here is a sneak preview of the document chosen by Richard Howell, one of the WSAS Committee members, on behalf of WSAS:

Map of Worthing, late 1820s (PM 929)

I love poring over old maps, imagining a landscape that has probably changed beyond recognition, yet picking out features which still exist. This map shows the embryonic town before the arrival of the railway, when much of the town centre was still fields, and today's busy Richmond Road is marked as 'Footpath to Heene and Tarring'. When this map came up for sale, I strongly supported the proposal that WSAS should purchase it for the Record Office. It embodies the very essence of WSAS in helping to ensure that rare documents are held in safe keeping for future generations to enjoy.



Amidst all of our celebrations we should also pause to remember those who have contributed so much but are no longer with us. We owe a great deal to all of our staff particularly those who have devoted much of their working lives to making the Record Office what it is today. Many of you will have heard by now the very sad news about Frances Lansley, our Search Room Supervisor, who died in May after a short illness. Her passing brought with it a huge sense of sadness and loss but more recently this has become tempered with the knowledge that Frances leaves behind her a permanent memory in the office with her quiet dedication, her remarkable expertise and knowledge and above all her never-failing support for everyone who knew her. Sue Millard and Di Ladlow have put together a special tribute to Frances for this newsletter.

Elsewhere in the newsletter Jenny Mason reports on our Queen Victoria Hospital Archive Project funded by the Wellcome Trust, and Andrew Rackley introduces himself as our Project Archivist. This project work will enable us to make this major archive available to researchers and to honour the pioneering work of Sir Archibald McIndoe and his team and the members of the Allied Air Forces, who were treated at the hospital and became known as the Guinea Pig Club. Sam Gallop CBE, Chairman of the Guinea Pig Club, has very kindly nominated the archive for our 70th Anniversary. It seems very fitting that this important collection should be included as one of our 70 archives.

The Loyal Address to Her Majesty the Queen on her 90th Birthday

Earlier this year the Record Office had the very real pleasure of working with the Lord Lieutenant's Office to put together the Loyal Address that was sent to the Queen on her 90th birthday on behalf of the people of West Sussex. The text was put together by Kim Leslie, former Education Officer at the Record Office, in conjunction with Dr John Godfrey DL and John Williams, the clerk to the Lieutenancy, whilst the archives were scoured for records and photographs of royal visits. The Loyal Address, which takes the form of a colourful booklet, records visits by the Queen to West Sussex throughout the decades and features photographs from the archives. The earliest illustrations show Princess Elizabeth making sandcastles at Craigweil near Bognor whilst visiting her grandfather, King George V, who was convalescing there in 1929. Later photographs include visits to Crawley New Town and Gatwick Airport in 1958, Chichester Festival Theatre in 1962, the Royal Maundy Service at Chichester Cathedral in 1986 and of course her racing successes at Fontwell and Goodwood.



The Loyal Address has also been reproduced as an exhibition and was on display at the Record Office in April and May together with some of the original photographs. It was then shown at County Hall and subsequently displayed in June at the Chairman and Lord Lieutenant's Summer Reception to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday. It is now touring the larger libraries throughout West Sussex so do pop in and see it when it comes to your area.

Wendy Walker

Introducing Andrew Rackley

I am Andrew Rackley and I hail from the small Lancashire cotton town of Darwen which, incidentally, is an anagram of my name! It is an absolute pleasure to find myself working at the Record Office. Everyone I have met has been thoroughly welcoming, and it has been a delight to feel part of a team from the moment I walked through the doors.



A little background about me: my father was a paper-maker, my mother a librarian, whilst I chose to study Ancient and Medieval History at the University of Birmingham before progressing to the University of Liverpool, where I qualified as an archivist. I have worked for both Warwickshire County Record Office and Dudley Archives and Local History Service, but arrived here after a short hiatus from the archival profession to complete a PhD. In this I was very lucky to be able to combine a lifelong passion for sport with my vocation, working at the British Library to investigate the archiving of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I am now working to catalogue the records of the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, and its famous scions, the Guinea Pig Club. The name chosen by the men themselves, 'Guinea Pig', reflected the pioneering nature of Sir Archibald McIndoe's work at the hospital. Having received terrible burns when their planes crashed or caught fire, Sir Archibald recognised the importance of

healing both the physical and psychological wounds of the Guinea Pigs. For this reason, 'his boys' were allowed to wear their own service uniforms whilst recovering and a supply of beer was always on tap in the form of the barrel kept in the ward, despite protestation from the hospital welfare committee!

I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone together with the collection and the county during this project, and enjoying life at the Record Office.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCES LANSLEY

Many of you will already know of the tragic death, after a short illness, of our friend and colleague, Searchroom Supervisor, Frances Lansley. Her death on May 25 has left us with a terrible sadness and we miss her so much. Our hearts go out to her husband, Peter, and to Anna and Martin, her children.

Frances began her work in the Record Office in August 1994 when the Record Office first opened on Saturdays. Starting on the same day as Clare Snoad, they were our first 'Saturday Girls'. Gradually, as her children grew she increased the number of days she worked and at the beginning of 2000 when Sue Millard became Searchroom Archivist, Frances ably took over the Searchroom Supervisor role.

In her quiet way Frances became the linchpin of the Searchroom. She had a deep and extensive knowledge of our collections gained from 22 years' experience. A knowledge her colleagues and friends not only in the Searchroom but the whole Record Office often relied on – if there was something we weren't sure of, Frances usually knew the answer. She was a most patient person, spending much



time and effort in helping visitors to the Searchroom both in person or on the telephone, leaving no stone unturned in her efforts to help with their research. Her email replies were legendary!

Frances never had a cross word to say about anyone and she will be remembered for her kindness, for her wonderful 'Frances hugs' and also her love of nature; she had particular affection for Herdwick sheep, Highland cattle and trees (woe betide anyone who tried to fell a tree within 100 yards of the Record Office!). Frances was a frequent visitor to West Dean Gardens with her family and none of us will ever be able to visit there without thinking of her.

A measure of how much Frances will be missed was shown by the number of tributes that poured in to the Record Office from colleagues past and present, researchers, and volunteers alike. As one regular researcher put it 'Life will never be the same again'.

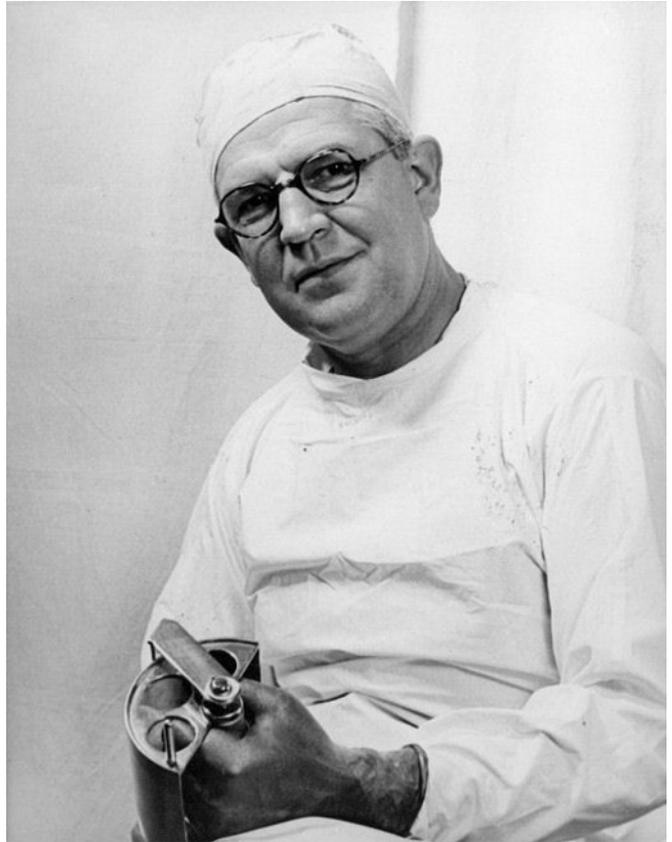
Diane Ladlow and Susan Millard

Queen Victoria Hospital Archive: Wellcome Trust Project

In 2015 the Record Office was awarded a £72.9k Research Resources Grant from the Wellcome Trust to catalogue, digitise and preserve the Archive of the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead. As a result an exciting partnership project is now underway between the Record Office, Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the Guinea Pig Club and East Grinstead Museum.

During the Second World War, Queen Victoria Hospital was one of four national centres for plastic and reconstructive surgery, and the sole centre for the treatment of members of the Allied Air Forces, who became known as the Guinea Pig Club. The renowned surgeon, Archibald McIndoe, was appointed in 1939 to lead the work at the hospital and in 1947 he was knighted for his achievements. Whilst working there, McIndoe established new techniques, such as saline bath immersion, and further developed existing skin grafting procedures which transformed the life expectancy and outcomes of his patients. McIndoe also promoted the importance of psychological health and reintegration into normal life and his legacy is partly founded on this holistic approach to treatment.

The Queen Victoria Hospital Archive includes over 15,000 patient case-files, which have now been transferred to the Record Office and approximately 650 of these relate to the Guinea Pigs. There are also administrative records, which trace the evolution of a small cottage hospital founded in 1863 into what it is today. It also includes what is believed to be the only known survival of Sir Archibald McIndoe's own research papers, which reflect the development of his revolutionary techniques.



Sir Archibald McIndoe
Photograph courtesy of East Grinstead Museum

A significant number of the patient case files - in particular the Guinea Pig Club files - include photographs showing the patients' injuries and the results of treatments administered by McIndoe and his fellow surgeons. Some files also contain detailed free-hand drawings, sometimes coloured, of surgical procedures as they took place. Due to the heat and light generated by cameras, photography in the operating theatre was restricted, so these drawings are the main visual record of the surgical procedures as they were carried out. The drawings were made by Mollie Lentaigne, a Voluntary Aid Detachment [VAD] nurse who worked at the hospital, and a further tranche of her work is held by East Grinstead Museum and this will also be digitised as part of the project.

This archive is one of national and international importance and our project will enable this unique resource to be used by researchers across the world for the study of the development of plastic and reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation. The archive not only records all of the pioneering work carried out at the hospital but also highlights the vital role that the local community at East Grinstead played in the rehabilitation of these remarkable patients. A new permanent display about McIndoe and his Guinea Pigs will be opening at East Grinstead Museum in December 2016.

Our Project Archivist, Andrew Rackley (who is introducing himself elsewhere in this Newsletter), started work on the collection in March and has been cataloguing the patient case-files and the Guinea Pig Club files. As these records contains sensitive personal data Andrew has developed a cataloguing methodology that will allow relevant information to be captured from the files, whilst retaining the anonymity of patients. To date he has successfully catalogued all of the Guinea Pig Club files, which marks a real milestone in the project, and has also made excellent headway with the main run of patient files. We are now recruiting for a Preservation and Digitisation Assistant and once this post has been filled, the other strand of the project will begin. I think this will be a very exciting project and I look forward to sharing more about this with you all in the future.

Jennifer Mason, Collections Manager



Archibald McIndoe and Harry Jacobson entertain nurses and Guinea Pigs with a sing song – the scrubs suggest he's not long left surgery. The image is believed to have been taken in 1943.

Photograph courtesy of East Grinstead Museum

Sad News

NORMA PILBEAM in April 2016. Norma worked in the Record Office for a time and was a very active member of WSAS in the 1990s. She published Sussex Record Society's Volume 83: Mid-Sussex Poor Law Records.

FRANCES LANSLEY in May 2016. Frances was well-known to most of us as the research room supervisor. There is tribute to Frances in this newsletter.

Forthcoming Events at the Record Office and WSAS

Events Review

Family History Workshops at WSRO

If you're new to family history or want to find out more about the sources available and how best to use them, you may be interested in the Record Office 'coffee time' workshops. They start at 10am on the first Wednesday of the month and cover a wide range of sources. In the autumn, a new programme will be announced for 2017, but there are still a few spaces left on Nichola Court's workshop on 5 October 2016 which will be taking a look at records of the 'poor law'. So if you have any ancestors who fell on hard times, this might be the workshop for you.

Tuesday Talks at WSRO

WSAS members are also invited to our ongoing series of Tuesday talks, starting at 7pm, which continue throughout the year. The next two talks are as follows, but more topics will be announced shortly.

- 27 September 2016: Chichester in the 1950s - An illustrated talk by Susan Millard
- 25 October 2016: The Story of Shippam's - An illustrated talk by Nichola Court

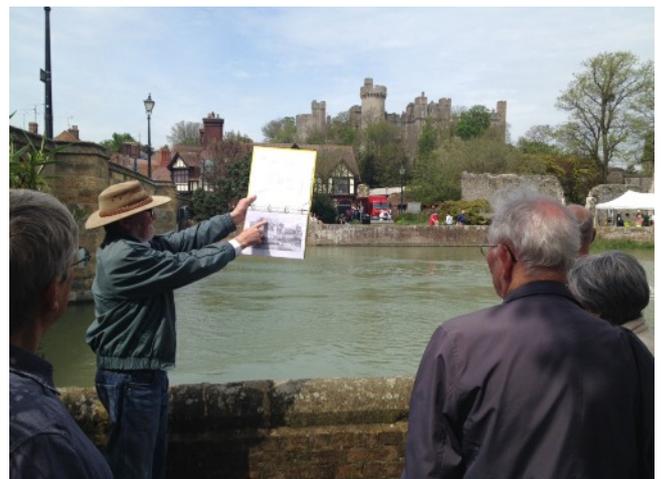
Book now!

If you'd like to come along to a coffee time workshop or a Tuesday talk, please call 01243 753602 to book and pay (advance booking essential). Tickets cost £7.50 (£8.00 for Tuesday talks from 25 October), which includes refreshments. Visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro and view the 'What's on at the Record Office' page for more details.

Arundel Walk

On Saturday 7th May members of WSAS and FoTKA (Friends of the Keep Archives) met at Arundel Museum for a guided walk to discover the scenes of Arundel's industrial past.

Our guide, Adge, led us onto the 'new' bridge built in the 1930s which replaced the narrow eighteenth century bridge. We heard how when it was being built, the planners overlooked the fact that the Arun is the second fastest flowing river in England. The coffer-dam, required for building the piers, restricted the current to such an extent that the river undermined the foundations of the Bridge Hotel situated on the bank and it collapsed into the water. He pointed out the town quay and told us some colourful stories of the large sailing ships, towed up from Littlehampton by the tug *Jumna*. There were five docks in the east bank and ships had to wait till the peak of the tide for *Jumna* to turn them round again. It was astonishing to see in old photographs, the height of the masts - half as tall again as the three storey, white painted, salt warehouse which is now a private residence. We walked into Jubilee Gardens, and along the back lane to see a converted Oast House and the Malthouse. Crossing the Causeway and down Queen's Lane past the curved wall of the old town pound, we could see many surviving buildings once part of the Swallow Brewery, owned by the Constable family. One of these buildings still has an industrial use, as sand-



blasting has been carried out there for the past 40 years or so. A replacement copy in metal of the huge wooden swallow used as the brewery advertising sign, can be seen on the roof of the town hall.

Walking along the now peaceful River Road lined with pretty cottages and converted pubs and industrial buildings, we were shown where there had been a soap factory, brass foundry, wire works, candle factory, slaughterhouse, blacksmith, steam mill, and the corn store which became a deck chair factory. At the site of the Nineveh Ship Yard we learned that there had been a narrow gauge railway running down to the river. In Turnip Green Square we heard that even until the 1950's there stood a row of hovels that had no facilities of any kind; no heating, no lighting and no running water. The lavatories were behind a brick wall across the square, in which the bricked up windows of the seven cubicles are still visible!



Heading away from the river, up Arun Street, we saw interesting flint buildings, some with galleting, little chips of flint inserted into the mortar. This short street is unusually wide and we speculated on the purpose; perhaps so that teams of oxen pulling carts to and from the river, would have space to turn around.

In Tarrant Street we passed the Eagle pub and brewery offices; Ninevah Chapel; Sparks Yard, built by carpenter and auctioneer John Sparks and still owned by his descendants; a former smokehouse and the old West Sussex Gazette printing works and offices, in use until the 1960s. An original carved hardwood shop-front at Larkins grocery and provision store was much admired. Near the Victoria Institute, originally the Arundel Savings Bank, Adge pointed out an iron post, one of many which had been inserted into metal sockets in the market square and to which the cattle were tethered. Some of these sockets can still be seen in the cobbles outside Pallant's and the Arundel Butchers. It was rather disconcerting to learn that the picturesque, timber framed Belinda's Restaurant had once been a slaughterhouse!

Although we had planned for two simultaneous walks, the guide who would have led the specialist Georgian and Victorian Architecture walk was unfortunately unwell. However Adge made up for this by pointing out and describing the variety of buildings in Arundel en route. Most of us had enjoyed visiting the museum before the walk and once back there we were grateful for a supply of fresh tea on such an unusually warm day, accompanied by delicious cakes. We soon felt thoroughly restored. Thanks are due to the museum staff, particularly to our knowledgeable and entertaining guide Adge, his assistant Joe and to Jo Philbey.

Although we had planned for two simultaneous walks, the guide who would have led the specialist Georgian and Victorian Architecture walk was unfortunately unwell. However Adge made up for this by pointing out and describing the variety of buildings in Arundel en route. Most of us had enjoyed visiting the museum before the walk and once back there we were grateful for a supply of fresh tea on such an unusually warm day, accompanied by delicious cakes. We soon felt thoroughly restored. Thanks are due to the museum staff, particularly to our knowledgeable and entertaining guide Adge, his assistant Joe and to Jo Philbey.

Leigh Lawson

Sidlesham LSA Walk

On the afternoon of 4th June, both members and guests, met with Dr Bill Martin in the carpark of Sidlesham School, in Keynor Lane, Sidlesham. It was pleasantly warm and the threat of rain had receded. Some of us were already familiar with the Land Settlement Association, having attended a presentation in March with a film and talk by Dr Martin. However, a number of us knew little or nothing of the LSA and were eager to learn. There is little evidence of the organisation apart from their houses, built by local builders, W Stirland (still going) in the mid to late 1930's, together with some ageing Poultry Sheds in which battery hens had been kept, the piggeries and most importantly the acres of Glasshouses (descended from those early wooden structures which served the early settlers there so well).

The houses were numbered 1 to 144, including staff houses. They were reached by a small concrete bridge and had such luxuries as tabletop baths. No 39 on Keynor Lane is now called

'El-Es-Ay' The houses have been extended over the years and now are equestrian units and have very large gardens!

We learned that these early arrivals had been unemployed for many years, the Great Depression having devastated the shipyards of the North East and the mining areas of South Wales. We began to get a picture of what these desperate men were faced with having been successful in qualifying for the scheme. They arrived at first without their families, in the remote Sussex Countryside to be greeted by the Warden in charge who explained what was expected of them for the first few months whilst they learned to change from the life they had known into nurseryman. This was utterly foreign to them but needs must. If their families were to join them they had to be successful in their endeavours. For the first few months, as a group of single men, they would have to rub along in the barracks, (Keynor Hut) which was situated in the grounds of the Manager's House, (now Keynor House). This barrack was later used for meetings etc . social occasions, Brownies. whist drives, Sidlesham WI. Once they learned the basics they would be given a holding: a semi detached house, sited in 4/5 acres, a Battery Shed, a piggery, a Glasshouse (timber built) and a garden of their own.



Concrete Footbridge

The Sidlesham unit was perhaps the largest of the LSA settlements. The land had been purchased at rock bottom prices from the farms that had failed in the depression.

A picture emerged of some families adapting well to an alien existence, whilst others were unable to adapt to a life when there was little or no social life, no one to chat to or exchange gossip whilst hanging the washing out or virtually nowhere to go to kick your heels up on a Friday/Saturday night. Tenants had to 'comply'. They had to grow what they were told, their supplies and machinery had to come from the Association and their crops sold through the same way. All their plants were supplied by the Propogating unit. Pigs and poultry had been compulsory in the early years but this was relaxed by the early 1960's. Tomatoes and lettuce under glass was very successful until Dutch competition put paid to it. One nurseryman, independent now, grows tomatoes for Waitrose and others now.



A Pair of LSA Cottages

Sadly the whole LSA venture was closed down by the Thatcher government in 1983. It had sustained 120 families from 1936 on. It had (the whole LSA nationwide organisation) been the largest single producers of food in Great Britain in the war years.

We finished the walk in Dr Bill Martin's lovely garden in Keynor Lane where his wife served tea and delicious homemade cake which was very welcome.

Peter Dyer

Events Programme 2016

Sunday September 4th - A talk by Christopher Whittick entitled “Battle Abbey and the Vellomaniacs - locating the monastic archive”. To be held at WSRO 2.15pm-4.00pm.

Christopher Whittick of East Sussex Record Office, who has been visiting the Huntington Library in California since 1991 to list the archive of Battle Abbey, will talk about the completion of his project and the fascinating history of the documents. Tea and Biscuits will be served during an interval in the presentation.

Saturday October 15th - 'The WSAS Conference to be held within the picturesque grounds of the Cathedral's Close in the former residence of the Archdeacon, 4 Canon Lane, entitled “The Wonders of Chichester Cathedral and its Records”. This is an outstanding opportunity to explore the cathedral via a guided tour and to hear the presentations of two eminent speakers; Peter Wilkinson and Dr Andrew Foster.

11.00-12.00 Meet at the West entrance to the cathedral for the tour. Please be prompt for 11.00am
The tour will visit the cathedral library and treasury and will involve climbing a spiral staircase of some 40 steps.

12.00-13.30 Time available for you to have lunch. Please make your own arrangements.

Rejoin the conference in the former Archdeacon's residence, The Dresden Room, 4 Canon Lane for a 13.30 start.

13.30-14.15 The amazing stories within ecclesiastical records by Peter Wilkinson

14.15-14.45 Tea and biscuits

14.45-15.30 The Impact of the Reformation on Chichester Cathedral - Dr Andrew Foster

15.30 Depart

Saturday November 26th WSAS Workshop entitled “Manors and their Records” to be held at WSRO.

What was a manor? Was it the same as a village? What was copyhold or a terrier? Come and find out about manors in West Sussex and how their records were created. There are wonderful documents waiting to be discovered, and this workshop will help you to be able to use and interpret them for your own research.

10.45-11.00 Arrival and coffee

11.00-11.45 Manors and how they worked. How and where to find out about them.

11.45-12.00 Small break

12.00-12.45 The records – what they looked like, how to read and interpret them.

12.45-2.00 Break for lunch (you will need to bring a packed lunch or go out into the town)

2.00-3.30 Practical workshop for participants

3.30-4.00 Tea and feedback

WSAS Committee

Richard Mant - Chairman

Leigh Lawson - Vice Chairman

Susan Nicel - Treasurer

Richard Howell - Secretary

Barrie Keech - Newsletter & Website

Holly Wright - Committee Member

Jane Mant - Membership Secretary

Stella Elliot - Committee Member

Barbara Ely - Committee Member

Helen Whittle - Journal Editor

Gillian Thompson - Committee Member

Wendy Walker - County Archivist

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

Sunday September 4th – A talk by Christopher Whittick entitled “Battle Abbey and the Vellomaniacs - locating the monastic archive”. To be at WSRO 2.15pm-4.00pm.

Costs £4 members £5 non-members

Names of members attending

Tel No Email or home address

Names of non-members attending

Tel No Email or home address

Amount paid, cheques made payable to WSAS

Please return slip by Friday August 26th to WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall,

Saturday October 15th - WSAS Conference “The Wonders of Chichester Cathedral and its Records”

Cost: £12 members £15 non-members

Names of members attending.....

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

Names of non-members attending.....

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

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

Please return slip by 7th October to, WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN

Saturday November 26th -WSAS Workshop entitled “Manors and their Records” to be held at WSRO.

Cost: £8 members £10 non-members

Names of members attending.....

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

Names of non-members attending.....

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

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

Please return slip by 18th November to, WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN
