

The Researcher

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

Website: westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net



October 2018

No. 103

WEST SUSSEX ARCHIVE RECEIVES A ROYAL VISIT

On Wednesday 3rd October Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex made their first official visit to the county. They arrived in Chichester at 10.45am and after a short walkabout in West Street, they came into Edes House to see the Sussex Declaration. We were able to explain how the full significance of the document had come to light and tell them about the results of the work we have been undertaking over the last two years with Harvard University, the Library of Congress and the British Library. They both showed great interest in the Declaration and the American connection with the Duchess made it a very special occasion.

We presented them with a facsimile of the document together with a copy of Kim Leslie's book, *Roots of America*, which we published in 1976 and includes a transcript of the Declaration, and *Military Voices Past and Present – West Sussex Veterans in the 20th Century*, edited by Martin Hayes, Emma Worrall and Amy Perry, that resulted from the hugely successful HLF project in 2017.



Forthcoming Events

Saturday Nov 17th -
WSAS Workshop
entitled *Parish Records
after the Registers*

Saturday Dec 8th -
WSAS Christmas Get
Together

Thursday Feb 28th 2019
- A tour of Christ's
Hospital, Horsham

Please note that next
year's AGM will be
held on Saturday
March 30th at
Boxgrove Village Hall

**PLEASE REMEMBER
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL BY JAN
1st 2019**

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

It isn't often that archives hit the national and international news, although the Sussex Declaration has had its fair share of attention over the last two years. It is rarer still that an archive forms the highlight of a major royal visit. It was a great day for West Sussex and a great day for archives.

Amongst other news is the success of our bid to the Wellcome Trust for the Vawdrey Art Therapy Archive Project. The Vawdrey Archive comprises some 194 paintings produced by patients in art therapy sessions run by Dr Brian Vawdrey between 1951 and 1971. Vawdrey was a consultant at Graylingwell Hospital, who previously worked at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh. The archive includes his thesis, *Art in Analysis*, which refers to the artworks and includes case studies and commentary from the patients themselves. The project started in September in partnership with Outside In, an award winning charity that is based at Pallant House Gallery in Chichester and works to create a fairer and more inclusive art world. The grant of £46K will enable us catalogue, preserve and digitise the collection in consultation with Outside In artists who have to had live experience of mental health issues.

In September we also received the news that we were a finalist for the National Archives Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy in the Digital Preservation Council Awards 2018. This is for our work as part of a Local Authority Digital Preservation Consortium (Dorset History Centre, West Sussex Record Office and Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre) and the work that we have been doing on digital preservation with Archives First (our partnership with 10 other local authority archive services) over the last two years.

The other finalists in this category are the UK Parliamentary Archives, the Irish Film Archive and the White House Historical Preservation Society so we are up against some strong competition. The winner will be announced in Amsterdam on 29th November.

As part of our work with the Consortium we have recently been able to acquire Preservica, a system that will enable us to preserve all of our digital archives and ensure that they continue to be accessible in the future. We have also just appointed a Digital Preservation Archivist who will start work with us in November and help us to carry out this vital work. You will meet our latest member of staff in the next Newsletter.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who responded to our Royal Sussex Regiment Heritage Project Survey in May. We received 247 responses all of which were very positive with some wonderful comments that we were able to feed into our first-round Heritage Lottery Fund application in August. The initial bid is for £70K to support the project and prepare for the second-round application. If we are successful this initial development funding will enable us to put together an Audience Development and Activity Plan, a Conservation Management Plan, and carry out some IT and website scoping work. We will then be able to submit a second-round application for the main grant of around £530K to deliver the project over three years from 2020-2023. The decision about our first-round bid will be made at the end of November.

My heartfelt thanks also go out to Richard and all of the WSAS Team who worked so hard over so many months to make the Book Sale such a great success. It is a fantastic achievement and very many congratulations to you all.



Finally I leave you with a pre-Christmas brain teaser. What is the connection between the West Sussex Record Office, the Malaysian National Archives and Yul Brenner? Come along to our Christmas Get Together on 8 December at the Record Office to see the archives in question and find out more!

Wendy Walker

“PROBABLY THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLICATED EVENT

.....”

The Book Sale is now over and it is probably the largest and most complicated event ever organized by WSAS.

The Book Sale was two years in the making during which time approximately 5000 history books were donated from all over the county and brought to the Chichester Cathedral Friends' Office; in August and September this year working parties were held every week to sort and categorise all the books; and then the Book Sale in October took four days: Day 1 was setting up the sale which meant all the books had to be brought from the Treasury building to Vicars' Hall and in order to do this we purchased two four-wheeled trolleys; Day 2 and Day 3 saw the Book Sale in action in Vicars' Hall; and Day 4 required us to clear the hall and all the left-over books.

The sale was further complicated by the fact that we were working with two other societies. As with our previous book sales, our good friends, the Petworth Society, took away all the unsold books to sell at their own monthly book sales. Our new friends, the Chichester Cathedral Friends, have been working with us now for two years and it was agreed from the start that we would divide the Book Sale receipts equally between WSAS and the Friends. Furthermore, our joint planning revealed that WSAS would provide the experience and expertise associated with running a successful book sale and the Friends would provide the accommodation for the books. Both organizations would provide the necessary manpower.



The accommodation to start with was the Friends' Office at the Cathedral, but we outgrew that place in a few months and it became merely a collecting point thereafter. Our good friend, Steve Holloway, who is Secretary of the Friends, then arranged for us to have the cupboard in the upstairs back room in the Treasury building for the books, but we outgrew that in a further six months so Steve then arranged for us to have the whole of the back room but that was soon swamped with books so we were given the landing upstairs as well. However in the last few months it transpired that we needed even more space so we were

given the whole of the Treasury upstairs, including the front room. All this required patient and skilful diplomacy and here we were very fortunate in having Steve as our chief negotiator as he knew just the right people at the Cathedral to approach. I would also like to mention the support and friendship of Iain Jessup of the Friends whose help was greatly appreciated.

To run a book sale of this size and complexity required a large work force dedicated to the task in hand and I am enormously grateful for the help given by 24 members of WSAS and friends of WSAS. Members of the Friends were a great help throughout and especially on the day when 5000 books had to be taken to Vicars' Hall. Without this combined help the Book Sale would not have happened.

Viewed from any angle the Book Sale has been an undoubted success. In two days it raised £2710 and so £1355 is available to the West Sussex Record Office and the remaining £1355 goes to Chichester Cathedral.

The Book Sale provided a superb opportunity to advertise and promote WSAS and during the two days 16 people signed up as new members of WSAS. Mrs Gillian Keegan, the Chichester MP, very kindly visited the Book Sale and was particularly interested in what we do at WSAS.

Three different societies worked happily and successfully together and look forward to working with each other again.

Throughout the sale a very pleasant atmosphere prevailed with many new friendships and contacts being made. We are very grateful for the use of Vicars' Hall – which is such a fine room in which to hold a book sale - and we thank the Cathedral authorities for this facility and for providing tea, coffee and sandwiches throughout the two days.

Richard Mant

WSAS MEMBERSHIP IS DUE FOR RENEWAL ON 1ST January 2019

New subscription rates from 1st January 2018 as agreed at the AGM in April 2017 :

Single	£ 18
Joint	£ 20
Society	£ 35
Life	£ 200

Renewals may be paid anytime from now until 1st January.

If it suits you please set up a Standing Order for your subscription as this reduces administration for the society.

If you already pay by Standing Order please remember to inform your bank of the change in amount.

Please do Gift Aid if you can. It is a great help to WSAS to be able to reclaim 25p for every pound of your subscription.

Jane Mant – Membership Secretary

Forthcoming Events organised by the Record Office

Family History Workshops

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 Monday or Wednesday of the month and cover a wide range of sources. The remaining programme for 2018 is as follows:

7 November 2018: Reading old handwriting

A new programme for 2019 will be available shortly.

Tuesday Talks

WSAS members are also invited to our ongoing series of Tuesday talks, starting at 7pm. The next few talks are as follows:

- 30 October 2018: **Returning home: exploring the First World War's aftermath in West Sussex** – illustrated talks by Emma Worrall and Alan Readman, focusing on the experiences of soldiers trying to make ends meet after their return from the front, the lively debates in local communities about the best way to honour the fallen, and efforts since WW1 to remember the dead.
- 27 November 2018: **West Sussex Women: A Centenary of Suffrage**
- 29 January 2019: **The Little Churches of Chichester** by Alan Green
- 26 February 2019: **The High Sheriffs of Sussex** – a talk by Dr John Godfrey and Caroline Nicholls DL, the current High Sheriff of West Sussex, that explores the history of the office of High Sheriff and provides a fascinating insight into the present day role in the county.
- 26 March 2019: **The Anti-Slavery Movement in West Sussex** by Dr Richard Huzzey

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 non-refundable). Tickets for coffee time sessions cost £7.50 and for Tuesday talks £8.00, which includes refreshments. Visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro and view the 'What's on at the Record Office' page for more details.

***** Discount for WSAS members *****

Please tell us that you are a WSAS member when you book to benefit from £1 off the price of your ticket

WSAS Events Review

THE PETWORTH WALK

On Sunday July 8th, braving the heat, 14 of us, led by Tim and Ann Hudson, set off from The Old Bakery shopping arcade in Petworth to explore some of the quaint streets and to be introduced to a selection of the many interesting buildings which make up the town. Our expert guide for the afternoon, Dr Tim Hudson, is currently carrying out research in West Sussex for the revised edition of Pevsner's famous book, due to be published around May next year. Many of the buildings in the shopping arcade at first glance appear to be old but on closer examination, and with some instruction, it was clear that the majority are recent constructions built to resemble and blend with those of earlier times.

This turned out to be a foretaste of what was to come. Many of the houses with facades clearly belonging to one century hide a building originally from another. One such is Lancaster House on the corner of the Old Bakery complex and Golden Square. The stone built rear section of the 17th century is in marked contrast to the red brick front section with balustrades on the upper storey which were a feature of late 18th or early 19th century style.

Also on Golden Square, Avenings, a late 18th century red brick house demonstrated another feature of Petworth houses, the ornate classical style portico. We were later able to spot various examples of porticos as we walked around.

Market Square features the Leconfield Hall, built of local sandstone, designed by the Petworth Estate architect in 1793 and later extended in 1860. On one side is an intricately carved bust often alleged to be of William III but which Tim has recently established is almost certainly of James II. Standing opposite this, in complete contrast to the plain lines of 1793, is the 1901 Edwardian Baroque National Westminster Bank building. Moving on from there we reached Sadlers Row. On one side is the massive Victorian frontage of what was The Swan Hotel and on the other tiny 17th century cottages. Tim drew our attention to the strange layout of roofs and gables indicating the many additions and alterations made to the cottages. Across Park Road we stood to view the house used for administration by the Leconfield estate. This demonstrated that, unusually for a large country estate, Petworth House and its offices are built almost in the town. (Later when we visited the Parish Church we were aware of Petworth House looming over the churchyard.) Continuing to the High Street we stopped to view Fairfield Cottage, a fine example of a Wealden House of around 1500 with a screen passage to the side showing original timbers and doorways.

Evidence of the Leconfield estate's influence was found in Grove Lane where late 18th century Stone House, built of ashlar with fine jointed blocks, is believed to have been designed by the estate architect. Opposite we found more evidence in the long rows of workers cottages built in the mid 19th century of stone rubble with brick embellishments and fine chimneys. These cottages are numbered according to their place on the Leconfield estate "map", which covers



Half-Wealden House

all the properties owned by the Leconfield estate in England, rather than their place in the lane. Hence they start at 328. The Leconfield properties can be distinguished by the brown paint on doors and windows.

Angel Street yielded the Sacred Heart Church and the Angel Hotel. The former, built between 1894 and 1896 is very impressive, of huge proportions, in 14th century style. The hotel is another example of a 19th century front concealing something much older. In this case possibly 17th century. Daintrey House in East Street also hides a 16th century house behind its 18th century frontage. As with many newer buildings in Petworth the 20th century Post Office also in East Street is designed to blend with its much older surroundings and sits happily beside its neighbour which has original medieval carvings on the door lintel.



Daintrey House

Our marvellous tour ended outside St Mary's Church admiring the Charles Barrie designed lamp standard which is at the junction of East and Church Streets. This gift from the people of Petworth to Lord Egremont commemorates the installation of the town's water supply in 1836.

Having thanked Tim for his fascinating tour and explanations, only a part of which is recounted here, we all retired to The Audit Room of Petworth House for the traditional WSAS tea and cakes!

Jane Mant

THE STEYNING CONFERENCE

Dr Ruth Brown put together a superb conference for us all to enjoy at the Steyning Centre in September. Not only were we to hear from five top-class speakers, but there were also seven societies in attendance, all of interest, and displays of work on the history of Steyning from Steyning Primary School and furthermore the Steyning Book shop had a selection of books for sale.

Peter Crowhurst's fascinating lecture on Olaf Caroe and the Great Game brought home to us the immediacy of the running of the British Empire even in the rural and peaceful depths of Sussex. For three decades Steyning provided the home for a senior colonial administrator, Sir Olaf Caroe (1892-1981) who had played a major role in the government of India in the quarter century up to 1947.

After Westminster School, Oxford and a degree in classics he saw War service in India and the North West Frontier and was caught up in the Afghan War of 1919. Thereafter training for the Indian Civil Service brought him to the Punjab. It was not a soft option. In 1923 he transferred to the Political Service acting as a magistrate in the North West Province. In 1929 he became Chief Commissioner (governor) of the Province. Again, it was a difficult post and several times involved armed action and civilian deaths. In 1937 he was appointed Senior Governor of Baluchistan where he became a serious player in the Great Game. It's a term that now sounds melodramatic or even comic – but it represented a serious major issue of foreign policy: the threat of a Russian incursion in the northwest of the Indian sub-continent and the takeover of Middle East oil resources. This remained a major preoccupation for the rest of Caroe's life.

He took on the major role as Foreign Secretary to the Indian Government throughout World War II, followed, finally, by the Governorship of the North West Province from 1945 to 1947. In the period of the India/Pakistan Partition, Nehru, the rising star, saw him as too close to the Muslims and enforced his dismissal.

But retirement to Steyning did not mean inactivity. He produced publications on the Great Game and was seen as senior advisor by the UK and the USA. He advised the Conservative party on the Middle East through to Margaret Thatcher's time. For the whole of his career he showed unfailing commitment to the British Empire in India.



Attendees examine the tables of Societies during a break

The next talk was entitled Walter Gibraltar: From Sussex to the Bishop's Palace, Malta. I suppose that Gibraltar is closer to Sussex than India – and Janet Pennington swiftly tied us in, with a romantic link to the Victorian daughters of the Goring family. The life of Walter Trowell (1804-1877) had developed along the proper lines for a nineteenth century bishop: Eton, Oxford, a fellowship at Oriel, and a friendship with Bishop William Wilberforce. Originally destined for the law, he had to overcome his father's wrath before he achieved ordination. Originally a Londoner who had holidayed in Sussex, he soon found his way to Wiston – and fell for Elizabeth, the daughter of Charles Goring, the planter of Chanctonbury Ring. He married her in 1829, and, unsurprisingly, became rector of the family living of Wiston. Preferment followed: he became Bishop of Glasgow in 1849 and Bishop of Gibraltar in 1863. This job meant that he was effectively the Anglican bishop of the whole of southern Europe and Turkey – with his palace not at Gibraltar but in Malta at Valetta.

His career has left us a special archival legacy. The most startling was a wooden box – ostensibly for estate business papers – which turned out to contain the personal letters of the Goring family in the Victorian period. Additionally, both Walter and Elizabeth – both talented artists – left a rich collection of views of Sussex and beyond. There is a sad end to their story, however, as Elizabeth died after falling from a ship at Le Havre; and Walter, heartbroken, survived her for only a year.

Janet's talk has simply whetted our appetite. She has published, together with Jane Goring, Joyce Sleight, Jill Turner and Janine Harvey, the cream of the family papers, appropriately under the title of *Lives, Loves and Letters*. It makes fascinating reading.

David Randall rounded off the morning by introducing us to the intricacies of the National Curriculum and gave an impressive demonstration of the range of relevant and illuminating archive material that he had been able to discover in local sources.

After lunch Professor Brian Short addressed the Conference with a fascinating talk entitled 'The Middle Adur and Beyond – A Farming Dynasty in Two World Wars.' He related how during the early years of the 20th Century the Passmores, a farming family from Devon, had moved to Sussex to take over Church Farm in the tiny hamlet of Combes set in the heart of the Adur Valley. They brought with them their livestock, which they herded up from Shoreham Station. At that time the farm was owned by the Petworth Estate, but such was the dire state of British farming at that time, that for the first two years of their tenancy, they were allowed to run it rent free.

Within a few years the First World War had broken out and this meant farmers were facing many obstacles, with a reduced workforce because of the young men going off to the War, many horses had been requisitioned, and a significant reduction in the amount of fodder that was available.

Despite these setbacks it seems that this was a prosperous time for farming and following the end of the War in 1918, the Passmores were able to purchase the farm from the Petworth Estate in 1920.

Less than two decades later, when World War II began in 1939, the country was much better prepared for what was to come. The Passmores were heavily involved with their local War Agricultural Committee, and would visit local farms to advise which crops should be planted in which fields to maximise the yields.

This was a most interesting talk that set the national picture through the story of a local farming family whose efforts, and those like them, helped the country through two of the most perilous periods in its history.

The second and final talk of the afternoon was entitled 'Archives at the Steyning Museum' and was presented by Chris Tod, the Museum's curator.

We were shown copies of some letters written by a family of Sussex emigrants who had left England for America in the middle of the 19th Century to seek a better life. One letter revealed how in 1853 it had taken them seven weeks to cross the Atlantic before arriving in New York, from where they made their way to Chicago. Sadly things did not work out very well for the family. Some of them died of Small Pox and later they were to be caught up in the Great Fire of Chicago of 1871.

The final document that Chris talked about was the original copy of the famous First World War poem 'From Steyning to the Ring', also known as 'Chance Memory.' First published in the Daily News in 1916 under the name of Philip Johnston, it was only following the author's death in 1969 was his true identity discovered. It turns out that he was actually J. S. Purvis. Before the war he had been a master at Cranleigh School. Having survived the war he returned to Cranleigh and continued his teaching career there.

For a Society that owes its very existence to archives and the stories they have to tell this was a particularly interesting talk and rounded off a very successful conference.

Richard Mant, Peter Wilkinson & Richard Howell

Events Programme

Saturday November 17th - WSAS Workshop, *Parish Records after the Registers*, to be held at WSRO

Parish registers get the most publicity, because they are the bread-and-butter documents for family historians. However the parish authorities influenced our lives for centuries in lots of different ways, and the result is a wealth of under-used material. These documents tell us about the lives our ancestors led from the constraints of poverty to the ways in which the wealthy wished to be remembered.

10.45	Arrival and coffee
11.00-11.30	Introduction – how to find parish records, quick overview of registers and BTs
11.30-12.15	Churchwardens, church history
12.15-1.00	Vestry and successor records, charities
1.00-2.00	Lunch
2.00-2.45	The Poor - settlement
2.45-3.30	The Poor - overseers, rates, apprenticeships
3.30-4.00	Tea and round up

Cost Members £12 Non-members £15 to include coffee, tea and biscuits

Saturday, December 8th . The WSAS Christmas Get Together for members and their guests to be held at WSRO from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Mince pies, coffee, wine, a look at recently acquired documents, short talks on West Sussex history and a chance to ask those questions you have been itching to ask the County Archivist. The event is free but we need to know numbers so please complete a booking form.

Talks: During the morning, we are going to include three short talks. This worked well last year and gave the day added interest. We would like to hear from you if you would like to tell us about some aspect of West Sussex history that is a special interest of yours. You do not have to be an expert in this field! Please let us know on the Booking Slip if you would like to offer a short talk and speak to us for no more than five minutes – less if you like. The talks are completely informal and there is no need to stand when you speak. The first three offers of talks will be accepted. All those who offered a talk will be informed as to whether their offer was successful or not. If you would rather not offer a short talk, please come anyhow, relax and enjoy the occasion. The more the merrier!

Lunch: Arrangements have been made for lunch afterwards at ASK Italian. We have a table reserved. We can choose from the menu when we get there and everyone pays for themselves. Please indicate when booking for the Get-together whether you would like to go to ASK as we have to let them know numbers beforehand.

February 28th 2019 – Visit to Christ’s Hospital, Horsham, RH13 0LJ

Meet at the Hertford Centre at 1pm ready to watch the band parade (weather permitting). This will be followed by a tour of the school, conducted by current CH pupils. We conclude with a visit to the on-site museum where tea/coffee will be provided. Estimated finish time is 3.45pm.

N.B. The tour involves a lot of outdoor walking.

Directions:- Enter by the main gate on Christ’s Hospital Road park in the West Car Park. Reception is on the left of the car park, from there you will find directions to the Hertford Centre.

£11 members : £13 non-members tea/coffee included

WSAS Committee

<i>Richard Mant - Chairman</i>	<i>Jane Mant - Membership Secretary</i>
<i>Leigh Lawson - Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Stella Elliot - Committee Member</i>
<i>Susan Nicel - Treasurer</i>	<i>Helen Whittle - Journal Editor</i>
<i>Richard Howell - Secretary</i>	<i>Gillian Thompson - Committee Member</i>
<i>Barrie Keech - Newsletter & Website</i>	<i>Ruth Brown - Committee Member</i>
<i>Jeff Staniforth - Committee Member</i>	<i>Susan Millard - Information Manager</i>

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

Saturday November 17th - Parish Records after the Registers a workshop to be held at WSRO, Chichester.
Begins 10.45am and ends 3.45pm.

Cost: £12 members £15 non-members to include coffee/tea and biscuits

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 10th November to, WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO19 1RN

Saturday December 8th - Christmas Get Together for members and their guests, to be held at WSRO
Chichester from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The event is free but we need to know numbers so please complete a
booking form.

Names of members attending.....

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

Names of Guests.....

How many for lunch at ASK Italian?

Today's Date.....

Would you like to tell us about your current research, or project, or interest in West Sussex history? Yes/No

If yes, please state the title of your talk

Please return slip by November 24th to WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West
Sussex. PO19 1RN

Thursday February 28th 2018 - A tour of Christ's Hospital, Horsham

Cost £11 members £13 non-members to include coffee, tea and biscuits

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 21st February to, WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO19 1RN
