

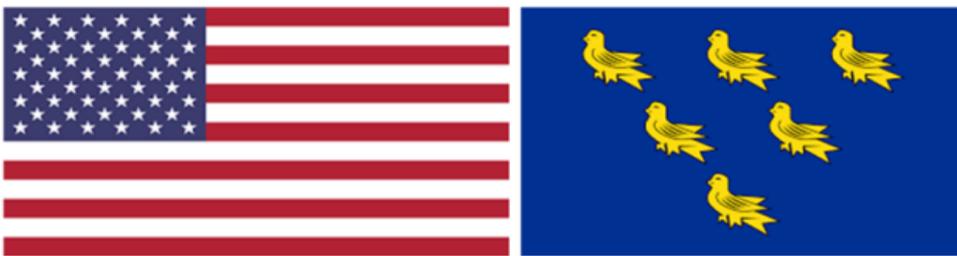
# The Researcher



NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST SUSSEX ARCHIVES SOCIETY  
THE FRIENDS OF THE WEST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE

## Transatlantic Ties: America and West Sussex

As the autumn draw in, we are starting work on our Transatlantic Ties Project. Over the next two years we will be promoting and celebrating the close links between West Sussex and the US dating back to the early eighteenth century. With the aid of a very generous grant of \$100,000 from The Andrew W Mellon Foundation we will be exploring the many archives that tell the story of these intriguing connections and the rich history that we all share.



Jo McConville has been appointed as our Transatlantic Ties Project Manager. Many of you will remember Jo as the archivist for the Queen Victoria Hospital Archive Project and more recently as the archivist for the Vawdrey Art Therapy Archive Project, both funded by the Wellcome Trust. She did such a good job for us on both of these projects that we are delighted to be welcoming her back again for our American adventure.

Jo's first job will be to investigate all of the archival evidence and to draw up a definitive list of the sources. Kim Leslie's book, *Roots of America*, published in 1976, will certainly give her a head start but we know there are other archives that have come to light since then. We will also be looking at the archive and museum collections of the Royal Sussex Regiment, which include an 18th century Native American knife and powder horn, an original Long Pattern Brown Bess musket from the same period and a painting of the charge made by 35th Regiment of Foot (predecessor of the Royal Sussex Regiment) at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

**9th November 2019**

WSAS WORKSHOP  
THE LANDSCAPE OF  
CHICHESTER

Within the walls, from  
16th to 20th century

**7th December 2019**

WSAS CHRISTMAS  
GET-TOGETHER

Mince pies, coffee, wine  
& historic documents  
- for members and guests

**15th February 2020**

WSAS TALK:

'ESCAPE AND EVASION:  
French Napoleonic Prisoners  
of War in Hampshire'

## AGM

Please note that next year's  
AGM will be held on  
Saturday 28th March at the  
Billingshurst Community  
and Conference Centre

## Membership Renewal

PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
RENEW BY 1st JAN 2020

**OCTOBER 2019  
ISSUE 107**

The Sussex Declaration will of course take centre stage amongst the archives but we will also be exploring accounts, diaries and contemporary letters, prints and paintings, ships log books, charts and maps, parish records, pamphlets, posters, scrapbooks and contemporary newspapers.

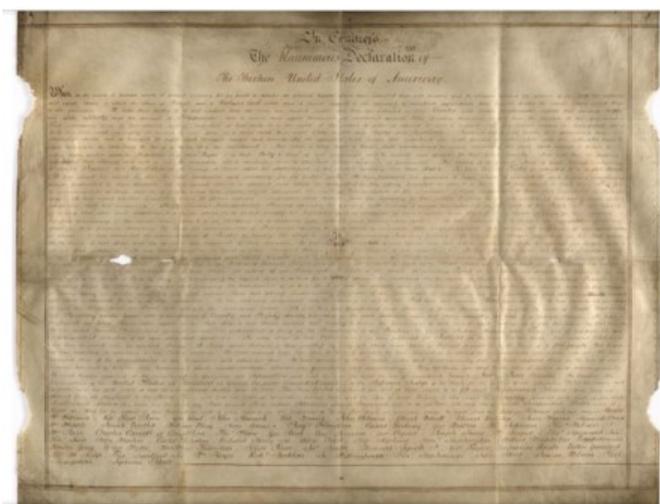
The project will cover pre-Revolutionary America from 1704, the American War of Independence 1775-1783, the War of 1812 and blockade of Chesapeake in 1814, life and travels in America from 1782 to the 1880s, the American Civil War, emigration from Britain to North America in the nineteenth century and slavery.

We will be digitising many of these resources and creating a new Transatlantic Ties website to showcase our American collections. We will be developing online learning resources, putting together a travelling exhibition and holding an international symposium at the end of the project.

So Jo will be very busy working with our partners at the University of Chichester and the University of Sussex, the Royal Sussex Regiment Association and Museum Trust and the West Sussex County Council Library Service as well as with our many depositors whose archives will help to tell the story. There will also be opportunities for volunteers to work on various aspects of the project so do contact Jo if you are interested.

On Saturday 23 November there will be a Record Office Open Day when we will be offering tours behind the scenes, document displays, archive film shows and the Sussex Family History Group advice desk. As ever WSAS will be supporting us, helping with the refreshments and talking to visitors about the Society and all that you do for us. Do come along and join us if you can and spread the work amongst your family and friends.

If any of you are thinking of going to the new Pre-Raphaelite Sisters Exhibition, which opens at the National Portrait Gallery on 17 October, do look out for the section on Fanny Cornforth aka Sarah Hughes, the model and muse of Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Many of you may remember the discovery of her entry in the Graylingwell Hospital patient case-book at the Record Office in 2015. Scholars had been searching for decades for clues about her later life and were finally able to find out what happened to her. The case-book and details about her life will be on display until 26 January.



*'The Sussex Declaration'*

We have been very fortunate in being able to acquire a number of new archives that came up for sale recently thanks to the generosity of WSAS. Jenny Mason, our Collections Manager, tells you more about these records in this edition of the Researcher. We will be displaying these documents together with some of our other new acquisitions at the WSAS Christmas Get-Together for members and guests on Saturday 7 December. I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us and hear more about our latest work and collections.

**Wendy Walker**

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## Forthcoming Events Organised by the Record Office

### See “*behind the scenes*” at Open Day - Saturday 23 November 2019

Are you interested in family, local or military history? If so, why not find out more about West Sussex Record Office in Orchard Street, Chichester? It preserves and makes publicly available the historic archives of the County from 780AD to the present day. And, on Saturday 23 November 2019, they will be holding an Open Day (free entry – timings to be confirmed).



Come along to meet the staff, find out what sources are available, see some fascinating original documents, and have a look behind the scenes. You can also seek advice from members of the Sussex Family History Group and WSAS will be taking part and helping throughout the day.

### **Workshops for family and local history**

If you're new to family and local 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. The first few workshops in 2020 are as follows.

- 8 Jan 2020: **How to start your family tree**
- 5 Feb 2020: **'Granny was a pauper': exploring poor law records**
- 4 Mar 2020: **Getting started with Ancestry.co.uk**
- 1 Apr 2020: **Reading old handwriting**
- 6 May 2020: **Researching the history of your house**

### **Tuesday Talks**

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

- 29 Oct 2019: **Elizabethan Chichester** by Dr Caroline Adams
- 26 Nov 2019: **'Lubrication in Moderation'. On the trail of Ye Ancient Order of Frothblowers in West Sussex** by Dr David Muggleton
- 28 Jan 2020: **By Rail to Chichester 1846-2016** by Alan Green
- 25 Feb 2020: **Finding needles in haystacks: research in the Petworth House Archives** by Alison McCann
- 31 Mar 2020: **Chichester in Colour, 1970** by Andrew Berriman

## 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](http://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**

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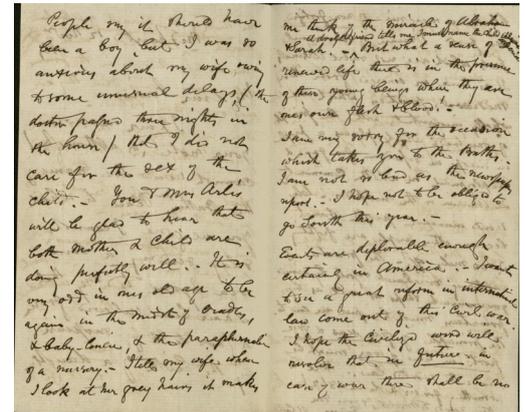
## WSAS Helps to Fund New Acquisitions

### Cobden letters (Acc 19582) and the Ron Kerridge Archive

Archives come in a huge variety of shapes and sizes, something which is reflected in two exciting purchases made with the generous assistance of WSAS.

The first collection comprises three letters from Richard Cobden, Radical and Liberal statesman, to François Barthélemy Arlès-Dufour. Arlès-Dufour was a French silk merchant, leading exponent of Saint-Simonianism, and a friend and frequent correspondent of Richard Cobden.

The letters, dated 12 Jan 1855, 12 Nov 1861, and 2 Mar 1865 reflect Cobden views on a wide range of subjects including the Suez Canal, Crimean War, American Civil War, and British politicians. He expresses his hope that the Crimean War will soon end and his desire to see a reform in international law emerge as a result of the American Civil War.



Letter from Richard Cobden to  
Arlès-Dufour - 1861

On a more personal note one of the letters includes a reference to the birth of Cobden's youngest daughter, Lucy, with Cobden writing 'It is very odd in one's old age to be again in the midst of cradles & baby-linen, & the paraphernalia of the nursery... But what a sense of renewed life there is in the presence of these young beings.'

WSRO already holds correspondence between Cobden and Arlès-Dufour but the bulk of Cobden letters to Arlès-Dufour are still in private hands in France so the acquisition of these three letters enriches the existing archive and provides invaluable additional material for future research.

The Friends of the National Libraries recognised the significance of these letters, making a grant of £600 towards the purchase, with WSAS and WSRO contributing match funding.

The second (significantly larger!) collection is the Ron Kerridge Archive. Comprising nine large boxes of deeds, photographs and postcards, and Ron's own research notes, this archive is an invaluable resource for Worthing historians.



Kerridge Archive

The earliest deed dates from the 1590s and there is a significant quantity of deeds relating to the Manor of Broadwater, Newlands Park Estate, and the Newlands/Penfold families, as well as ones for Lancing, Broadwater, Worthing, Ferring generally.

Ron's own research notes relate mainly to streets in Worthing and build a detailed picture of the inhabitants and Worthing life over the centuries.

Alongside the photographs and postcards (which include some very early Russell and Sons portraits) the collection as a whole is a significant resource for Worthing history. WSRO is very pleased to be able to give a home to an archive which is the result of a

lifetime of collecting and dedicated work and is extremely grateful to WSAS for their contribution in making this this possible.



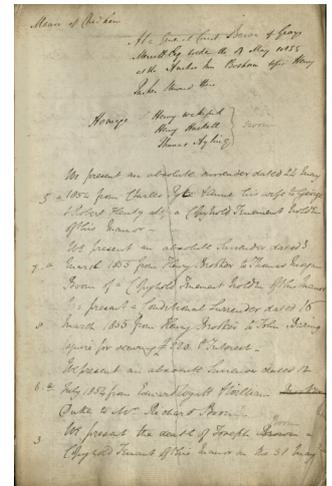
Kerridge Archive - Portraits

## Other Recent Acquisitions

### Littlehampton, Amberley, Arundel, Bosham and Chidham deeds (Acc 19578)

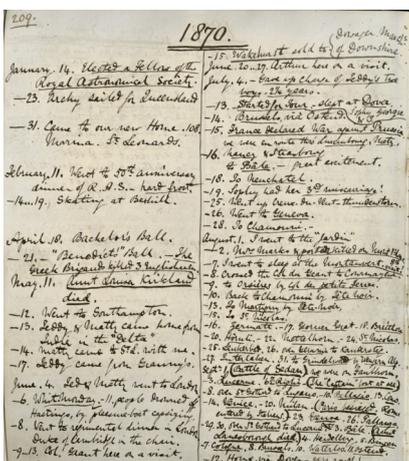
Deeds are always useful resources for local and house historians, so WSRO is pleased to have been able to purchase three bundles of deeds and manorial documents relating to Littlehampton, Amberley, Arundel, Bosham and Chidham dating from 1780 to 1939.

The deeds alone are interesting enough, but the bundles also include a manor of Chidham court book and a letter book belonging to a member of the Berkeley family (possibly Admiral Maurice Frederick Fitzhardinge Berkeley), lords of the manor of Bosham. The letter book, dating from the 1850s, details the trials and tribulations of estate ownership, with references to poaching, trespass, and an ongoing tense dispute with neighbour, Colonel Smith, regarding shooting.



Chidham Court Baron

### John Peyton Diary (Acc 19614)



John Peyton Diary

Providing a fascinating insight into the life and interests of a 19th century gentleman, the diary of John East Hunter Peyton is another recent purchase. John Peyton was born in 1841 and lived at Wakehurst Place, near Haywards Heath, until its sale in 1870. The volume dates from 1861 to 1916 (the year of his death) and as well as a detailed record of Peyton's life, contains cuttings relating to his astronomical and geological interests. This particular page records both the sale of Wakehurst Place to the Dowager Marchioness of Downshire and Peyton's election as a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

## Sussex 1635-1665: The Impact of the Civil Wars and Interregnum

Held at Chichester's magnificent Georgian Council House in North Street, this year's Conference laid on five excellent speakers who gave us a fascinating insight into how the Civil Wars affected Sussex. Our first two speakers admirably tackled the subject of living in Chichester (Danae Tankard) and Arundel (Caroline Adams) during the rebellion.

At Chichester, serious hostility developed between the gentry and clergy, who supported the King, and the wealthy merchants who controlled the Corporation and supported Parliament, although this was not universal.

The Parliamentarians were outmanoeuvred by the Royalists, who were reinforced when Sir Edward Ford arrived, but the arrival of Sir William Waller with 6,000 men in December 1642 saw appalling devastation by both sides as the defenders set fire to houses in the extra-mural suburbs, while much of Waller's cannon fire fell short into the parish of St Pancras. The Cathedral Close suffered severely and a number of churches were destroyed. The city remained as a Parliamentary garrison until 1647, during which time the Cathedral interior was damaged by occupying troops. Although casualties were light – no more than 20 on both sides – hundreds of people lost their homes and the conflict left a legacy of poverty which required amelioration till at least the 1660s.

Arundel also suffered considerably. The absence of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel meant there was no-one to support the inhabitants. In December 1642 Sir William Waller easily took the castle on his way to relieve Chichester. However, Sir Edward Ford re-took the castle a year later and Waller returned to lay siege. After 17 days, they surrendered after Waller diverted the water supply. Again, the impact of the conflict was devastating for the local inhabitants, many of whom fled. Large numbers of windows were broken and the soldiers turned the shops into stables. An outbreak of typhus in the castle soon spread to the town and accelerated the death rates among the more vulnerable inhabitants. A petition to Parliament stressed the 'great impoverishment' suffered by the people and listed 38 claims, probably exaggerated to obtain higher compensation.



Our third speaker, Fiona McCall, gave an account of religious conflict during and after the Civil Wars. She brought clarity to a difficult and complicated subject. By the 17th century, the Church of England believed implicitly in the importance of a national unified church and had little tolerance of other religious views. By 1640, the spectrum of beliefs included Catholics, traditional Anglicans and the Puritan 'Anglicans'. The Puritans disliked ceremonies, vestments and images and preferred a Bible-based religion which believed in Sabbath Day observance. Anti-clericalism flourished from the 1640s and the clergy had to decide whether or not to remain neutral. Those who wavered found themselves in serious difficulty, with one estimate claiming 25% of clergy lost their living. In 1647, the Puritans even banned Christmas!



The period also saw a rise in groups such as Anabaptists and Quakers, the latter recording the injustices they faced in their 'books of suffering'. The observance of the Sabbath led to some bizarre prosecutions – lighting a fire to cook food, opening an alehouse ('nurseries of licentiousness') or swearing in public. My favourite: a shoemaker indicted for 'walking about idly at Glynde'. Perhaps the recusants had the best strategy: they bided their time in the hope that the regime would eventually be replaced.

Janet Pennington gave us an informative talk about the Wiston Estate 1642-47. Delinquency was the parliamentary name for those who assisted the King. Sequestration Committees were formed to raise money to pay the troops, but in order to avoid this Royalists could pay a heavy fine instead. The Wiston estate was purchased by Sir John Tufton, 2nd Earl of Thanet in 1634, who already had estates in Kent and East Sussex. He was fined £9,000 for the return of his estates, but endured the theft of property to maintain the local soldiers – including hay, wood and food. Wiston Park was stripped of all its fencing posts and even the windmill was removed. Thanet reckoned he lost over £17,000 in sequestration on his Kent and Sussex estates and was forced to sell Wiston in 1649 for £6,870, just a fraction of the £16,500 he paid.

John Sutton gave us the final talk, a fascinating insight into Charles II's flight after his defeat at Worcester. This tale has often been romanticised to include stop-offs at country inns and overnight stays, but in reality the King spent no more than one day in Sussex before escaping to France. He had to avoid enemy soldiers and keep a low profile – not easy for a King who was 6ft 2in! By rights, he should never



have escaped, and it was only through the elaborate military network of Lord Wilmot, including Colonel George Gunter of Racton in Sussex, that he stood a chance. The King would undoubtedly have been executed if taken, as would anyone helping him, with a £1,000 reward offered. Wilmot and Gunter were desperate to find a ship to take Charles to France - going to Bristol, Charmouth, and Southampton without success. It was Gunter who eventually came up with the goods – he went to see Chichester merchant Francis Mansell who recommended Captain Nicholas Tattersall at Shoreham. Either could easily have betrayed the King, but the promise of future reward kept them on side, although Tattersall upped his fee to £200 in cash. Once Charles returned in 1660, Tattersall moored his vessel opposite Whitehall to stake his claim! Incidentally, according to Gunter, they did briefly stop at an alehouse in Houghton – but only to get bread and drink whilst they remained on their horses.

Special thanks to Helen Whittle for organising an inspiring Conference and the five speakers for their stimulating talks. Thanks also to Andrew Foster who compered the event. I, for one, went away yearning to find out more about this momentous period in English history. And only a single mention of Brexit!

During the intervals, several local history societies – which included Chichester, Bognor, Littlehampton and Midhurst, as well as the Chichester District Archaeological Society, the Cromwell Association and Sussex Family History Group – greatly enriched the proceedings, whilst a WSAS book sale was also very welcome.

**Malcolm Linfield**

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## A Voyage on the Chichester Ship Canal

On a sunny afternoon in July, 31 WSAS members and non-members gathered at the canal basin in Chichester in readiness for our journey down the canal to Hunston and beyond. Our boat was The Richmond, 52' long and 12' 6" in the beam. As soon as we embarked on the vessel, we found that all the tables were attractively laid for tea, complete with table mats which were maps of the canal, and once we were all seated the boat set off and we tucked into large slices of cake and cups of tea or coffee. We were extremely well looked after and our cups of tea and coffee were constantly replenished.



Judging the moment to be right, our on-board speaker, Andrew, started his talk, giving each one of us a map of the canal, and explaining that we were actually sailing on what was known as the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. At one time, we were told, it was possible to sail to Hunston and then either turn west to Portsmouth via Birdham, or east to Arundel via Ford on the River Arun.

Andrew explained that by the time the full canal was built in 1823 the need for an inland waterway was over for it was easier and cheaper to go by sea, especially as there was no longer a threat from France. There were problems in Portsmouth with salt water getting into the drinking water and the canal from Hunston to Ford relied on the pumping station at Ford to maintain the necessary water level. The full length of the canal became increasingly unused throughout the 1840s and financially it was a disaster.



The ship canal to Chichester was more successful for it was bigger and could take ships of 100 tons. It continued trading until 1906. After this date it became increasingly neglected and unusable until the current canal company took it over in the 1970s and carried out a programme of restoration. The canal is owned by West Sussex County Council and the lease is owned by the canal company who are therefore responsible for the entire up-keep of the canal which is a massive undertaking.

After The Richmond turned round, we stopped at Hunston, where the canal used to go on to Ford. We all got out and admired the very attractive scenery and most of us went up on to Old Poyntz Bridge where the view towards Chichester Cathedral was quite breath-taking. The famous artist, J M W Turner painted his picture of the canal with the cathedral in the background from this spot in 1829. Andrew completed his story of the canal on the way back and answered a considerable number of questions for his excellent talk had sparked off all sorts of enquiries. All too soon we were entering the canal basin in Chichester once more and our voyage was over.

So came to an end an extremely enjoyable afternoon for which we must thank Barrie Keech who made the booking with the canal company long ago in order to ensure we got the date we wanted and the optional extra of tea, coffee and cake, plus an on-board speaker, Barrie laid the foundations for a highly successful WSAS event.

**Richard Mant**



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## WSAS Membership is Due for Renewal on 1st January 2020

Subscription rates:

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

Renewals may be paid anytime from now until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

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

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. Many thanks.

**Jane Mant – Membership Secretary**

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## WSAS Committee

*Richard Mant - Chairman*  
*Leigh Lawson - Vice Chairman*  
*Susan Nicel - Treasurer*  
*Vacant - Secretary*  
*Richard Howell - Committee Member*  
*Sophie Wood - Newsletter & Website*  
*Jeff Staniforth - Committee Member*

*Jane Mant - Membership Secretary*  
*Stella Elliot - Committee Member*  
*Helen Whittle - Journal Editor*  
*Susan Millard - Information Manager*  
*Gillian Thompson - Committee Member*  
*Ruth Brown - Committee Member*  
*Wendy Walker - County Archivist*

All contactable using: [contact@wsas.co.uk](mailto:contact@wsas.co.uk)  
Further Society information is available at the website: [www.wsas.co.uk](http://www.wsas.co.uk)

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## Events Programme

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### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

#### **WSAS Christmas Get-Together for members and their guests**

To be held at the West Sussex Record Office from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

The event is free but we need to know numbers so please complete a booking form.

Places are limited so early application is advised.

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, Wendy Walker.

**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 offer 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 in East Street. 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.

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### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

#### **'Escape and Evasion: French Napoleonic Prisoners of War in Hampshire'**

2.30pm - St Boltoph's Church, Lansdowne Road, Worthing, BN11 4LY

During the Napoleonic Wars many thousands of French prisoners of war were held in Hampshire, on board the hulks in Portsmouth harbour, at Portchester Castle and Forton prisons, and in the parole depots such as Odiham and Alresford. But not all prisoners were content to wait for either exchange or the wars to end and escapes were planned and attempted. We are familiar with the escape stories from World War Two but these from two hundred years ago are just as dramatic, as Paul Chamberlain's presentation will reveal.

The talk begins at 2.30 pm at St Botolph's Church. The entrance to the room is on the north side of the church in Manor Road. Parking is available within the church grounds and unrestricted on side roads.

£6 members : £8 non-members : Tea/coffee and biscuits included – places are limited so early application is advised.

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## WSAS Event Booking Form

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**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**WSAS Christmas Get-Together for Members and their Guests**

**10:30am - 12:30pm - West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester, PO19 1DB**

The event is free, but we need to know numbers so please complete a booking form.

Names of members attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of guests: \_\_\_\_\_

How many for lunch at ASK Italian?: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

If yes, please state the title of your talk: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return slip by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 to: **WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN**

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**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**French Prisoners of War in Hampshire: Escape and Evasion**

**2.30pm - St Boltoph's Church, Lansdowne Road, Worthing, BN11 4LY**

Cost: members £6, non-members £8

Names of members attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of non-members attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid (cheques made payable to WSAS): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return slip by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to: **WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RN**

Please note that we do not issue tickets or receipts for booking slips received.

For queries, please contact: [contact@wsas.co.uk](mailto:contact@wsas.co.uk) | Events can also be seen at: [www.wsas.co.uk](http://www.wsas.co.uk)

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**WEST SUSSEX ARCHIVES SOCIETY**

**THE FRIENDS OF WEST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE**

Registered charity No 266997

**An illustrated talk by Paul Chamberlain**

# **ESCAPE & EVASION**

**Napoleonic Prisoners of War in Hampshire**

People are familiar with escape stories from World War Two but those from two hundred years ago are just as dramatic - as this presentation will reveal

**Saturday 15 February 2.30pm**

**St. Botolph's Church Room  
Lansdowne Road, Worthing BN11 4LY**

Please use rear entrance in Manor Road - parking in church grounds and side roads

**Members £6 Non-members £8 tea/coffee and biscuits included**

Advance booking recommended

A booking form can be downloaded from our website or send us an email

**Enquiries email [contact@wsas.co.uk](mailto:contact@wsas.co.uk)**

**Find us on Facebook 'West Sussex Archives Society'**

**Website [www.wsas.co.uk](http://www.wsas.co.uk)**