

The Researcher



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

The Year Ahead in Archives

With the start of the New Year we are planning out our work and looking ahead for 2020. In the world of archives this is not always an easy thing to do. Whilst documents come in to us on a regular basis and we continue to preserve and make them accessible throughout the year, there are often surprises along the way that none of us could have predicted. The discoveries and work surrounding the Sussex Declaration is an obvious case in point.

Our Transatlantic Ties Project, which began in 2019, will be continuing throughout 2020 when we will be exploring the many stories that illustrate the fascinating history and links between West Sussex and the US over the last 300 years. In October I was lucky enough to be in New York City for a few days and was able to visit The Andrew W Mellon Foundation. It gave me the opportunity to thank them in person for their very generous grant, to tell them about our work so far and to show them images of some of the documents and objects that we are working on. As well as the wealth of archives in our strong rooms the project will also include some of the Royal Sussex Regiment museum collections. The 35th Regiment of Foot (the predecessor of the Royal Sussex Regiment) were involved in the American War of Independence and saw action in the US during the previous Seven Years War, 1756-63.



We were able to share some of these archives with everyone at our Open Day on 23 November, when once again WSAS and the Sussex Family History Group joined us to help with the event. We had a series of documents out on display including a letter of December 1830 about the Swing Riots (which may tempt you to join us for the WSAS Workshop on 18 April) and a series of our

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

15th February 2020

WSAS TALK:

‘ESCAPE AND EVASION:
French Napoleonic Prisoners
of War in Hampshire’

28th March 2020

ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

Resolutions for
consideration at the AGM
must be submitted to the
committee via

contact@wsas.co.uk
no later than FRIDAY 7th
FEBRUARY 2020.

18th April 2020

WSAS WORKSHOP:

‘STIRRING TIMES - WEST
SUSSEX 1800-1850’

3rd May 2020

WSAS TALK:

‘SAFETY AT SEA’

A talk on the construction of
Beachy Head Lighthouse

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

HAVE YOU PAID?
2020 SUBSCRIPTIONS
DUE 1ST JANUARY

**JANUARY 2020
ISSUE 108**

American documents. These included records relating to the service of the 35th Regiment of Foot, a sketch of the action between the British and American Forces at Charlestown on 17 June 1775 and a map showing the northern park of 'New York Island' with a plan of Fort Washington in 1777. There were also archives relating to emigration from West Sussex to the US in the 19th century, travel and the slave trade. We had over 140 visitors, many of whom signed up for the tours behind the scenes including a visit to the Conservation Studio and Screen Archive South East. We had some great feedback from those who attended and I am very grateful to all of the WSAS members who helped to make it such a successful day.

At the WSAS Christmas Get Together we were able to display some of our more recent acquisitions, particularly those which WSAS helped us to buy over the past year. It was lovely to be able to share these with everyone and to express our gratitude to you all. Without the help of WSAS we would not have been able to purchase and preserve these important West Sussex documents.

Whilst in New York I attended an international symposium at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, where I met colleagues from Europe and the US and we were able to share our experiences of dealing with the archives of spontaneous memorials. It was a truly inspirational and humbling experience. I then travelled on to Washington DC and visited the US National Archives and the Smithsonian to start exploring how the Sussex Declaration and other West Sussex archives could play a role in the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. I was able to see the original 'Matlack' Declaration and the Constitution itself in the Rotunda at The National Archives (*pictured*). The idea that the Sussex Declaration could perhaps be temporarily reunited with these two seminal documents for a major exhibition is very exciting.



I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and to seeing what the next twelve months have in store for us. There are a great series of talks and workshops lined up by WSAS and the Record Office for you all to enjoy. Our Record Office blog continues to provide unique insights into our work and the collections themselves. If you haven't caught up with Tim Hudson's series on historical records and architectural histories do take a look. Following on from the publication of the updated Pevsner Guide to West Sussex, for which Tim was a co-author, he explores the different types of records used to research the history of buildings. So far he has covered Chichester Cathedral, Arundel Castle, Selsey maps and architectural drawings and models (www.westsussexrecordoffice.wordpress.com/?s=HUDSON).

Another one to look out for is the Sussex Record Society's new Digital Editions series. The SRS has been publishing editions of historical records since 1901 and to date there are 98 volumes on Sussex archives. Although they can be consulted in the Record Office and elsewhere, many are now out of print. The SRS has therefore launched a new imprint for online publishing which will provide digital editions of the Society's older print publications together with an online platform for records and other content which are complementary or additional to the printed volumes. The first three Digital Editions: Additional Volumes are now available on the SRS website and include further work on Church Court Depositions by Peter Wilkinson, following on from his book, *Chichester Archdeaconry Depositions 1603-1608* (SRS

vol 97), and an edition of *Witness Depositions of the Chichester Archdeaconry, 1599-1603*, by Kim Fleming (www.sussexrecordsociety.org/srs-digital-editions).

With all of this and much more in store I look forward to seeing you all in 2020 and wish you a Happy New Year.

Wendy Walker

Forthcoming Events Organised by the Record Office

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 programme for 2020 is as follows.

5 Feb 2020	'Granny was a pauper': exploring poor law records
4 Mar 2020	Getting started with Ancestry.co.uk * NEARLY SOLD OUT*
1 Apr 2020	Reading old handwriting
6 May 2020	Researching the history of your house
3 Jun 2020	Newspapers for family and local history
1 July 2020	Tracing your army ancestors
2 Sep 2020	Getting started with Ancestry.co.uk
7 Oct 2020	Researching the history of your house
4 Nov 2020	Reading old handwriting

Tuesday Talks

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

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
28 Apr 202	'SNAPS in Sussex': The photographs of John Smith (1852-1925) 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 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

Elections at the 2020 AGM

Applications are invited for the following positions on the WSAS Committee which become vacant at the AGM in March at Billingshurst: Chairman, Vice-chairman and Secretary.

Chairman: Richard Mant is stepping down as Chairman after six years in post.

Vice-chairman: Leigh Lawson is standing for re-election after six years in post.

Secretary: the position of Secretary is currently vacant.

It is hoped that members will wish to stand for election to these three positions at the AGM and so a job description is given here for each one, apart from that of Chairman as the job description for this position was given in the Researcher, Issue 106, July 2019.

The Vice-chairman's role is as follows:

- Support for the Chairman, and standing in for the Chairman when necessary, eg chairing meetings, representing the Society in lieu of Chairman, as requested.
- Keeping a watching brief on all WSAS activities and developments.

The Secretary's role is as follows:

- Take the minutes at each of the six committee meetings in the year, plus the AGM, and after consultation with the Chairman publish the minutes to all members of the committee. The Secretary is in fact a Minutes Secretary.

Nomination Forms for elected positions on the WSAS committee will go out in February with the AGM details.

AGM Event Programme

Saturday, 28th March 2020 – the AGM will be held at the Billingshurst Community and Conference Centre, Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9QW.

The AGM is in the morning and in the afternoon our guest speaker is Elizabeth Williamson FSA, a co-author with Tim Hudson and Jeremy Musson of the new Sussex: West, in the Buildings of England series. Elizabeth's talk is entitled 'In the footsteps of Nairn and Pevsner: the buildings of West Sussex'.

MEMBERS will receive AGM details including Booking Slips and Nomination Forms for positions on the committee during February.

NON-MEMBERS are very welcome to attend the talk in the afternoon on the buildings of West Sussex at a cost of £8 per person.

Non-members should arrive at 2.00 pm for tea/coffee and may use the Booking Slip which is available on the West Sussex Archives Society's website: www.wsas.co.uk

Ahead of Her Time: Harriet Johnson - An Illustrated Talk

When Harriet Johnson arrived in Sompting, West Sussex in 1897 to take up her position as headmistress of the village school, the vicar who appointed her probably assumed that she would be like any other Victorian schoolmistress - content, under his supervision, to instruct the regimented ranks of young scholars in the rudiments of reading, writing, arithmetic and scripture, with needlework for the girls.



However, as local historian Eileen Colwell explained in a fascinating illustrated talk in October 2019, Harriet Johnson was ahead of her time and she had other ideas: she introduced nature rambles, educational visits, lessons out of doors, cookery, art, and drama. For a while she was very successful, gaining the confidence and affection of her pupils and attracting plaudits from inspectors, who wished for her innovations to be replicated in other schools.

Then, quite suddenly, in 1910, she resigned. Why? A lengthy and animated discussion after the conclusion of Eileen's talk focused on this. From contributions from local historians, members of WSAS, and further reflections from Eileen herself, a consensus emerged that Harriet Johnson had been under increasing pressure to leave, mainly because she was seen in her methods to be threatening the very basis of the class system: she encouraged her pupils to think for themselves, and this was not what was required.



For the success of this meeting, WSAS is indebted to the Lancing and Sompting Pastfinders History group, who not only provided the speaker and most of the audience: they also supplied the tea, for a lively meeting which used archives to place local events in national context. An added bonus was that we met in the very room where Harriet Johnson had taught.

Ruth Brown

WSAS Workshop: The Landscape of Chichester

This workshop on “The Landscape of Chichester” underlined the central importance of the Record Office to an understanding of the communities that are the focal point of our interests; in this instance the City of Chichester within the walls. The workshop was a valuable introduction to the wide range of original documents available.

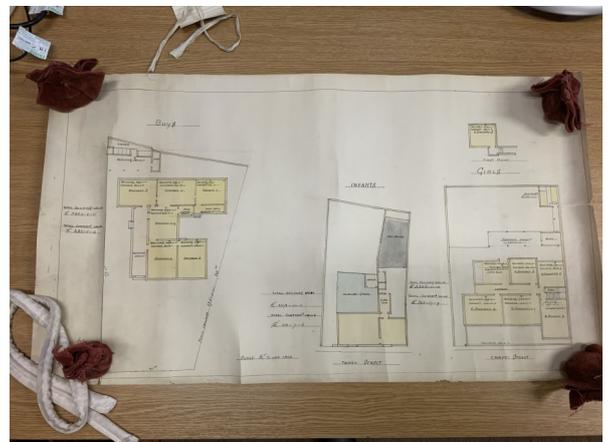


The day was led by Dr Caroline Adams and Susan Millard former Senior and Search Room Archivists at the Record Office. Members benefitted from the depth of experience and familiarity with the resources available. The workshop was divided into sections; Chichester City in Context, Shops, The Cathedral and small Churches, Schools, Leisure and Governance.

The workshop began with a copy of Christopher Saxton’s sixteenth century map of Sussex and John Norden’s map of 1595. Later cartographers, Thomas Yeakell and William Gardner were employed by 3rd Duke of Richmond (1735 – 1806). Gardner produced a town plan of Chichester in 1769 subsequently extended by George Loader in 1812.

The maps clearly illustrate the Pallants, the four streets in the south-east quadrant of the city which were in the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and with its own church, All Saints in West Pallant. The Pallants had a cross at its centre, just as the city had Bishop Storey’s Caen stone cross from 1501. However, the Pallant Cross was removed by Henry Peckham, with the consent of the Council, in 1713, subject to him providing an alternative location. The relevance of this to the workshop was to point out the rich narrative that is available to local historians in the bound volumes of the Chichester Council Minute Books.

The removal of the Pallant Cross is also referred to in the Memoirs of James Spershott. He was born in Chichester in 1710 and died in 1789. In his later years he reflected on his life in the city, producing a valuable insight into the eighteenth-century city. His memoirs are available in Chichester Papers No. 30, edited by Francis Steer in 1962. Susan drew attention to a collection of articles on the commercial life of the city in “A Baker’s Dozen: Chichester’s Lost Retailers” edited by Paul Foster and Sheila Hale and published in 2011 [WSRO Lib 17946]. Susan’s article in that volume, “Fabric and Furnishings”, includes the story of John Leng, who came to Chichester from Yorkshire in circa 1811. The business had properties at Northgate and Eastgate. The former is extant in Broyle Road and the Record Office holds day books and customers’ account books [Add Mss 18212-18234]. Susan has also analysed the shifting pattern of trade in Chichester, taken from trade directories from 1886 – 1986 and available at MP 8026.



An integral part of the landscape of Chichester is its small churches, from All Saints, a peculiar of the Archbishop through St. Peter the Great, (worshipping in the north transept of the Cathedral until 1852) St. Olave, late 11th Century, St. Andrew, 13th Century, St. Pancras, 18th Century, to St. Bartholomew, 19th Century. Two small churches, St. Peter the Less and St. Martin, no longer exist. The relationship between the churches might be seen as problematic, as Caroline pointed out; John Bullaker, a recusant, was also a church warden at St. Andrew. [Lib 2979/p75-86]

The educational landscape of the City is possibly more complex than its religious. The essential divide was between the Lancastrians (*after Joseph Lancaster, non-conformist and promoting Christian but non-sectarian education*) and Central Schools (*after Andrew Bell Christian, but within the liturgical tradition of Anglicanism*). The complexity is amplified through the different locations of each within the City and, in some cases, the movement of one tradition into premises previously occupied by the other. As well as the state schools there is a rich vein of independents, starting with The Prebendal, dating to at least the late 15th century, Oliver Whitby, Blue and Grey Coat charity schools, early 18th century and Chichester School in South Pallant, 20th century. There are log books, registers, plans and minutes available, though researchers need to remember that records less than 100 years old remain restricted.



The City offered a range of leisure activity from the Chichester Literary and Philosophical Society, 1831 – 1872 [Add Mss 9459-9460], through the Chichester City Club, founded in 1863 by Dean Walter Hook, as an alternative to Public Houses for the workmen engaged in rebuilding the spire of the Cathedral. Cinema came to Chichester at the end of the 19th Century with the Corn Exchange in East Street the first venue, closely followed by the Olympic Electric Theatre at Northgate [MP 8131].

Possibly the three documents that most interested the Workshop attendees were:

The Minute Book of the Queen's Jubilee, Local Celebration and Commemoration Treat Committee [ChiCity/CAL/1]

Charter granted by King Edward VI on 28 June 1547 [ChiCity/A/9/(16)]

The precise and beautiful drawings prepared for Sir George Gilbert Scott in rebuilding the spire of the Cathedral after its collapse on 21st February 1861 [Add Mss 1857]

The Workshop was very worthwhile and future similar events can be recommended to members of WSAS. No matter how familiar one might be with the Record Office, most of us are just scratching the surface of a deep mine of resource. Members of the workshop were very grateful to our guides for pointing to so many future avenues of investigation.

Philip Robinson

Christmas Get-Together at the West Sussex Record Office

Twenty five or so WSAS members gathered together on a not particularly nice day to a warm welcome from our committee members who were able to offer us sundry delicacies with which to start the festivities.



We then repaired to the Search Room to view some of the items that the Record Office has recently acquired. The late Worthing historian Ron Kerridge's archive has recently been purchased and some of his considerable collection was on view. Amongst other items on display were a Manor of Chidham Court Book and a diary written by John Peyton who lived at Wakehurst.

Our esteemed chairman Richard then introduced our three guest speakers. John Wells on the "Defence of Chichester in WW2", James McInnes on "Attempting to date Goodwood MSS E31" and Richard Howell on the "Leather wall hangings at Batemans", with the stern instruction that they were only allowed five minutes to state their case. They would be monitored by Jane who was in possession of cardboard Christmas tree cut-outs; one green, one orange and one red with which to oversee their progress, or lack of it. Any questions were to be asked after each presentation.

Local historian and author John then spoke on the availability of sources regarding WW2 anti-invasion defences between Pagham and Middleton. Records held nationally can be found at The National Archives and the Imperial War Museum and at a local level at the Sussex Archaeological Society and the Sussex Military History Group amongst others. He was asked about the concrete blocks that formed a part of those defences. Evidently following the war some were removed and dumped in the gravel pits around Chichester. About 100 of these have recently been found at the excavations for a superstore to be built in Chichester. Apparently one is to be installed as a memorial.

James then spoke about his attempt to date some forty-nine 18th century maps, with no surveyor's names, of the Boxgrove / Hainaker area. A catalogue of about 1785 showed the name, size, and current and previous owners of every dwelling within the area. The maps had at various times been in the possession of Mary, Countess of Derby. When she died in 1752 they passed to a distant relative, Sir Thomas Dyke Ackland, and by 1765 had been sold to the 3rd Duke of Richmond when he purchased Hainaker. James said that there were several possibilities as to the map makers and that it could have been Yeakell & Gardner who were to produce the landmark map of Sussex in 1795.

Richard's talk centred around the work he was doing on The English Country House and his particular interest in Batemans, one-time home of Rudyard Kipling. Part of his research focused on some leather wall hangings.

He said that in a letter written by Kipling's daughter Caroline that the hangings, made in the early 18th century Cordoba style, had been bought from a property on the Isle of Wight. Consequently it was thought that they may have originally been in Osborne House and had been purchased by Kipling about 1902.

Further investigation showed that they may well have come from the Mayor of the town of Broek in Waterland in the province of North Holland rather than from Osborne House.



Wendy was asked as to the progress of the Record Office in expanding its capacity to cope with an ever-increasing archive. Originally, land at the rear of the building including the staff car park was left for future expansion but planning issues will need to be considered. Wendy has made out a business case for an increase to the building but as always funding is however partly dependent upon West Sussex County Council

Following the recent grant of \$100,000 from the Andrew Mellon Foundation Wendy has recently been to America to meet the members of the Foundation and was able to get to see a copy of the Magna Carta. The Record Office has recently appointed a Transatlantic Ties Manager for what is being described as the "American Adventure".

Following the morning's excellent session Richard thanked our speakers and most of the group made it's way to an Italian restaurant in Chichester for some well-deserved sustenance.

Roger Brooks

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

Philip Robinson - Committee Member

Jane Mant - Membership Secretary

Stella Elliot - Committee Member

Helen Whittle - Journal Editor

Susan Millard - Information Manager

Gillian Thompson - Assistant Treasurer

Ruth Brown - Committee Member

Wendy Walker - County Archivist

All contactable using: contact@wsas.co.uk
Further Society information is available at the website: www.wsas.co.uk

Events Programme

Saturday 15th 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.

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

THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BOOKED NEED NOT DO SO AGAIN.

Saturday 18th April 2020

WSAS Workshop: Stirring Times – West Sussex 1800-1850

10am to 4pm - West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester PO19 1DD

This workshop explores some of the major political changes of the period and their influence on the people of West Sussex. Original documents will show us the local involvement in these changing times.

10.00 – 10.30	Coffee
10.30 – 10.40	Introduction
10.40 - 11.30	The effect of the Napoleonic Wars
11.30 – 12.30	The Swing riots
12.30 – 1.45	Lunch
1.45 – 2.30	Changes in looking after the Poor
2.30 – 3.00	The Tithe Controversy
3.00 – 3.30	Voting
3.30 – 4.00	Tea and round-up

Cost: members £15, non-members £18, full-time students £10 (evidence of eligibility required) to include coffee, tea and biscuits - *places are limited so early application is advised.*

Please note: participants may bring their own lunch to eat in the tearoom, or buy it in Chichester

Sunday 3rd May 2020

'Safety at Sea': The History of Beachy Head Lighthouse and The History of Selsey Lifeboat Station

2:30 to 4:30pm - West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Road, Chichester, PO19 1DD

Christopher Whittick will reveal the stories of the building of both the original lighthouse, Belle Tout, and the current Beachy Head lighthouse. Christopher has recently retired from the East Sussex Record Office where he was County Archivist.

For the second talk of the afternoon we will hear from Dave Fotheringham about the establishment, 155 years ago, of the first lifeboat at Selsey and of the subsequent evolution of Chichester's most local lifeboat station. Dave has been associated with the Selsey lifeboat for many years and is the author of a recently published book on the subject.

Cost: members £4, non-members £6 - tea/coffee and biscuits included - *places are limited so early application is advised.*

WSAS Event Booking Form

Saturday 15th February 2020 **THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BOOKED NEED NOT DO SO AGAIN.**

Escape and Evasion: French Prisoners of War in Hampshire

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 7th February 2020.

Saturday 18th April 2020

WSAS Workshop: Stirring Times – West Sussex 1800-1850

10am to 4pm - West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester PO19 1DD

Cost: members £15, non-members £18, full time students £10 (evidence of eligibility required)

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 Monday 6th April 2020.

Sunday 3rd May 2020

'Safety at Sea': The History of Beachy Head Lighthouse & The History of Selsey Lifeboat Station

2:30 to 4:30pm - West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Road, Chichester, PO19 1DD

Cost: members £4, non-members £6

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 24th April 2020.

Return slips 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 | Events can also be seen at: www.wsas.co.uk
