

The Researcher



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

County Archivist's Report

New Jerusalem Project: Post-War New Town Archives

I am delighted to be able to share with you the good news that over the summer we were awarded a Wellcome Trust grant of £427,809 on behalf of a network of archive services across the UK and Ireland, to help preserve and provide access to eleven major post-war new town collections including those of Crawley.

The New Jerusalems Project, which will be carried out over the next four years, brings together the Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, Durham Record Office, Essex Record Office, Gwent Archives, Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, Shropshire Archives, the University of Limerick, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Berkshire Record Office and West Sussex Record Office to preserve the new town archives of Crawley, Basildon, Bracknell, Cwmbran, Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee, Redditch, Runcorn, Shannon, Stevenage and Warrington. The grant has been awarded to us as part of the Association of New Town Archives and Museums (ANTAM) which was formed in October 2020 with the support of a Networking Grant from The National Archives.

The new town movement itself emerged after the Second World War when housing was one of the three pillars of the 'New Jerusalem' envisaged by the welfare state, with equal standing alongside the new National Health Service and income protection (pensions and sick pay). Moving to a home in one of the new towns was transformational for many of the early residents who left bomb-damaged London and other inner-city areas. The programme aimed to provide good-quality housing, solve overcrowding and address wider public wellbeing. New Town Development Corporations were set up to take this forward and their records show how these developments were conceived and carried out and how far they succeeded in meeting their original aims.

There has also been renewed interest in new towns following the COVID-19 pandemic with recent research into the importance of design principles to meet peoples' daily needs within walking distance and a resurgence of interest in green spaces, interacting with nature close to home, and accessing it through walking and cycling. The principles that underpinned the post-war new towns are therefore helping to inform today's debates on planning for the future and the post-pandemic recovery.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Sat 30th October
WSAS TALK:
FROM REFUGEES TO
ROYALTY

The story of the Messel family and Nymans
by John Hilary
Victory Hall, Balcombe

Sat 13th November
WSAS TALK:
WILL LONGSTAFF:
JACAROO, SOLDIER &
ARTIST

by Dr John Godfrey
Littlehampton Museum,
Littlehampton



*Master plan for
Crawley New Town, 1949
(Par 60/26/4)*

**OCTOBER 2021
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Crawley was designated in 1947 and was constructed as a self-contained industrial town, originally envisaged to have a population of 50,000. Development was guided by Anthony Minopiro's master plan, which explicitly recognised the importance of the physical environment to the health and wellbeing of residents. The extensive Crawley Development Corporation Archive includes 200 volumes of minutes, 103 boxes of departmental filing, 23 boxes of miscellaneous material, and a large quantity of supporting documentation, such as plans and photographs. The archive will be catalogued and fragile items, that could otherwise be lost forever, will be conserved so that these important records can be made available for everyone to see. Today the population of Crawley has more than doubled in size since the new town was built and we are looking forward to being able to share the discoveries that we make as we open the boxes and find out more about the history of this part of West Sussex.



*Crawley Official Guide Book,
1956 (AM 967/7/1)*

In February last year we provided an initial glimpse into Crawley in the Archives as part of West Sussex Unwrapped II, our multi-media project with Screen Archive South East which brought regular episodes of archives and films to your screens. We celebrated the end of this second series in September with an episode on West Sussex Cinema and a special West Sussex Unwrapped Live event. You can still catch up with this and other videos on the West Sussex Record Office YouTube Channel. Over the next two months we have more online events for you to enjoy including a fascinating talk on 26 October by Martin Hayes on the stunning photographic collections at Worthing Library with some wonderful images from across the county. On 30 November Jo McConville will be sharing her discoveries from our Transatlantic Ties Project with documents showing the close links between West Sussex and the US throughout the 18th and 19th centuries from the War of Independence and emigration through to the slave trade and the Civil War.

In August we were able to extend our opening hours whilst still retaining our procedures to keep everyone safe. As we head towards the winter we are continuing to monitor public health and government guidance, plan for the future and see how we can extend our services, resume some of our events and activities and welcome more people back to the Record Office.

We have been able to resume our staff recruitment work and have made two new appointments. At the end of September Carina Rosas joined us as our new Senior Conservator and she introduces herself to you in this newsletter. We are delighted to have her with us and to see the Conservation Studio in operation once again. This month Jo McConville takes up her new role as our Digital Preservation Archivist. Jo will already be known to many of you, having previously worked on the Queen Victoria Hospital Archive Project and the Vawdrey Art Therapy Archive Project, as well as being the Transatlantic Ties Project Manager. Jo will be continuing to help us with this latter project, alongside her digital preservation work, so that we can complete our American research, launch the new Transatlantic Ties website and hold our international symposium in the summer. Do watch out for further details of this event and how to book for what promises to be a fascinating and thought-provoking day showcasing the latest research on the Sussex Declaration and the links between West Sussex and the United States.



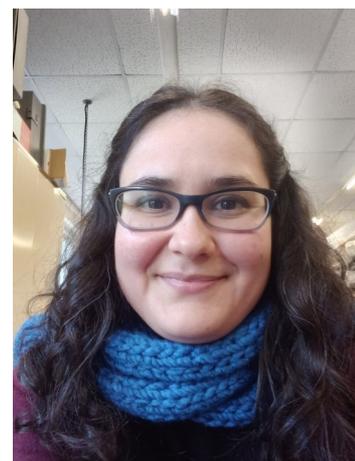
*Queensway Store in Queens Square, 1960s
(AM 967/9/12)*

Wendy Walker

Introducing: Carina Rosas, Senior Conservator

Hello Everyone! My name is Carina Rosas and in late September 2021 I joined WSRO as Senior Conservator. I am thrilled to be a part of this team who work arduously and passionately to preserve and enable public access to the WSRO collection.

A little bit about me... about 10 years ago, I developed a fascination with the field of conservation – a complex field bringing together history, science, specialist technical skill and a very unique ethical approach to enable the care of historical items. I was very fortunate to have been able to pursue this career, completing my MA in Conservation at Northumbria University in 2016. I since gained work experience at The British Museum, The National Archives, the British Library and more recently on a large scale project digitising the 1921 Census.



I am very excited to be working in a local authority archive and in the short time I have been here, have been warmly welcomed by the fantastic team at WSRO. Their dedication and wholehearted support of each other and the community in the face of all challenges is truly inspiring and I feel very fortunate to be a part of the team. I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the conservation studio, to share the work we do to care for our collection.

Carina Rosas

Forthcoming events at the Record Office

Tuesday Talks (online only)

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

26 Oct 2021: **West Sussex in photographs 1850s-date: Worthing Library collections** by Martin Hayes

30 Nov 2021: **Transatlantic Ties: American History in West Sussex** by Jo McConville

BOOK NOW!

If you'd like to attend, please book on Eventbrite. Tickets cost £5 and you don't need any special software. Visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro and view the 'What's on at the Record Office' page for more details and for helpful links to our talks on Eventbrite.

WSAS Committee

Philip Robinson - Chairman

Leigh Lawson - Vice Chairman

Richard Howell - Secretary

Jane Mant - Membership Secretary, Treasurer

Susan Millard - Information Manager

Wendy Walker - County Archivist

Helen Whittle - Journal Editor

Sophie Wood - Newsletter Editor & Website

Kim Fleming - Committee Member

Dr John Godfrey - Committee Member

Jeff Staniforth - Committee Member

All contactable using: contact@wsas.co.uk

Further Society information is available at the website: www.wsas.co.uk

Facebook: [West Sussex Archives Society](#) | Instagram: [@westsussexarchivessociety](#)

WSAS Conference 2021 - A reflection

To begin at the beginning, thank you Richard Howell and our five speakers for an informative, stimulating, and positive day. Our first 'in-person' event for 84 weeks. Richard carried the anxiety: having booked the original venue, it was commandeered as a vaccination centre; one of the original speakers was unable to keep the commitment; the arrival of the pernicious delta variant virus increased the probability that the day might have to be a Zoom fest and then, at the last moment, a panic over fuel raised the possibility that some of our speakers and participants might not be able to reach Midhurst. Thank you, Richard.

On Saturday 25 September, forty-five participants came together at the Grange for an insightful glimpse of West Sussex Country Houses. On behalf of WSAS I thank, Dr. Caroline Adams, Dr. Janet Pennington, Dr. Sue Berry, Dr. Anne Stutchbury and Adrian Tinniswood OBE for their positive, entertaining, thought-provoking presentations. What follows is not a resumé of their talks but my reflections and observations.

We began with Caroline exploring how people lived their lives in and around Cowdray in the late sixteenth century. Her title was, "‘Being desirous to live orderly and quietly within my lymytte’ – Hospitality and Power at Elizabethan Cowdray,' (the quotation are the words of the 2nd Viscount Montague, Antony Maria Browne, written in November 1595 in the Preface of his Booke of Orders and Rules for the better direction and government of both his household and family. (WSRO MF1273)). Caroline listed the thirty-seven separate roles specified in the 'Orders,' from the Steward of the Household through gentlemen-ushers, cooks, bakers, brewers, to the scullery man. It is of interest to note the absence of women in the list and speculate what this signifies as to the status of laundry work or of chambermaids and women in general in Tudor society. As well as naming the household roles the 'Orders' give a job description of each. These include, for example, the precedent that the gentlemen-ushers should follow when escorting the Viscount and his wife, or when in the presence of those deemed superior to a Viscount, such as earls or princes.

The detail in the guidance of how a household was to be managed is particularly relevant to what was one of the most noteworthy events at Cowdray in the late sixteenth century, the visit of Queen Elizabeth I from Saturday 15th August to Friday 21st August 1591. The host was Anthony Maria Browne's grandfather, the 1st Viscount Montague, Antony Browne, who had been created Viscount on 2nd October 1554 by Elizabeth's half-sister, Queen Mary. He was, and remained, a Roman Catholic, as was his grandson. The visit of Queen Elizabeth came just three years after the destruction of the Spanish Armada. The Spanish remained a threat to Protestantism and the Queen's visit was, possibly, an exploration of loyalty in defence of the realm. A test presumably passed as during the visit the Queen knighted Viscount Montague's second son, George and his son-in law, Robert Downer.

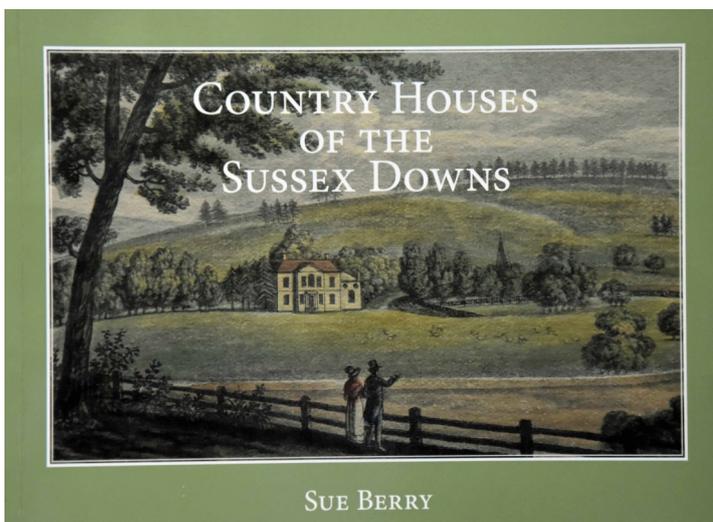
The Montagues appear to have been a Catholic family that accommodated to the prevailing religious imperatives of the sixteenth century without changing their religious convictions. This stance differed from the Sherleys of Wiston. Sir Thomas Sherley (c. 1542 – 1612) had been knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1573 and his apparent sincerity of faith led to his appointment in 1584 as custodian over Anne Howard, Countess of Arundel and a recent convert to Catholicism. If the Montagues had accommodated to religious change, the Sherleys embraced it then the Howards had resisted and suffered the consequences.

The title of Janet's talk was "‘A family not needing hyperboles’ – The Sherleys of Wiston House.' The hyperboles included a claim, advanced in 1888, that Sir Anthony Sherley was a probable author of Shakespeare's plays, though this can be dismissed. The lives to which Janet introduced us were extraordinary in their claims, arrogance, and bravura. Sir Thomas [1]

Sherley, was responsible for rebuilding Wiston House between 1573 and 1575, on or near the site of a former manor house owned by Sir John de Braose (aka Brewes) who died in 1426. In 1559 Thomas [I] married Anne, née Kempe who gave birth to twelve children, nine of whom survived infancy including three sons, Thomas II, born 1564, Anthony, 1565 and their youngest son, Robert born 1581. A family that might be called the knights of venality.

Thomas [I], went with Robert Dudley in 1585 to the Netherlands in support of the Dutch in their struggle for independence from Spain. Two years later he was appointed sole treasurer-at-war and, during the ten years he served, approximately £1.5m remained unaccounted for, a loss that resulted in Thomas [I's] confinement in the Fleet prison for debtors. Some of his property was seized and a charge placed on other assets, including land, nevertheless in 1601, he was returned as Member of Parliament for Steyning, a seat his eldest son, Thomas [II] had held in 1584 and between 1593 and 1597. In March 1604, shortly before the opening of parliament, Thomas [I] was riding in London with the king, James I, when he was accosted by a City goldsmith, to whom he owed money, and was again sent to the Fleet. He protested that this arrest was counter to the democratic privileges of members of parliament, a privilege that parliamentarians were content to support through a special bill, henceforth known as Sherley's case.

Each of Thomas's sons led dissolute, irresolute, and debt-ridden lives. They were privateers, maybe better labelled 'pirates,' in some cases funded in their 'adventures' by their father, who died in October 1612. The Wiston estate was heavily encumbered and was sold by Thomas [II] in 1622 to Sir Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Middlesex, a sale that enabled the Sherleys to settle their debts though, eventually for Middlesex, to acquire those of his own.



Sue Berry (2021)

Country Houses of the Sussex Downs,
Lewes, Sussex Archaeological Society
(available through www.sussexpast.co.uk)

Underlying each of the first two talks was the consequences of the Reformation, the availability of land following the dissolution of monasteries and the shift in authority as the bible became available to all and open to different interpretations. Dr Sue Berry's talk examined 'The Transformation of Country Houses and Their Settings on the West Sussex Downs. C. 1680 – 1820', that is the long eighteenth century, and the consequences of the civil wars. Country houses became fewer in number but larger as estates got bigger and a more formal layout in an 'E' or 'H' shape framed their architecture. There was an increased separation between the private spaces of the owners and the public domain, a shift towards landscaped parks and the seeming ubiquity of 'Capability' Brown

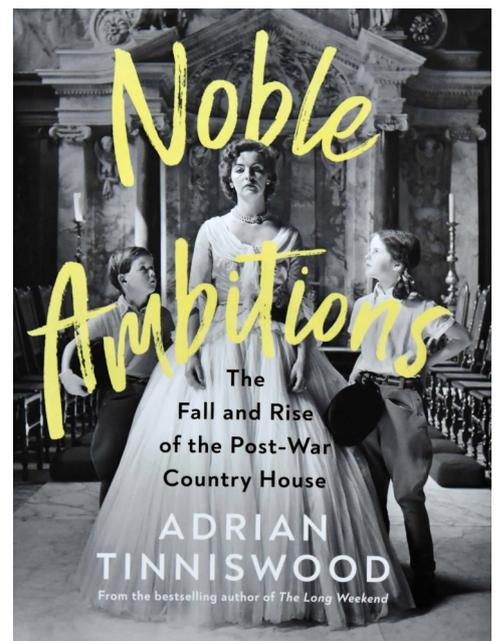
(1716 – 1783), adaptations, re-alignments and enhancements funded more by business than inheritance. Sussex became closer to London with the construction of turnpikes, Chichester to Hindhead in 1749, Lewes to East Grinstead, 1752. An incipient industrial revolution grounded in iron ore and coal increased the wealth of landowners, a surplus that could be spent on leisure and which changed the nature of country houses. They tended to become complementary to the house in London, and a catalyst and site for the pursuit of hunting and shooting as sport together with provision for horse racing, as at Goodwood in 1802.

A neglected feature in the historiography of this period, Sue pointed out, is the contribution made by women. Elizabeth Percy provided the finance to enable Charles Seymour, 6th Duke of Somerset to reconstruct Petworth House following their marriage in May 1668, though the extent of her influence of the reconstruction is uncertain. Anne Pelham, wife of Thomas Pelham, 1st Earl of Chichester provided a loan to her husband on five percent interest, increasing to 6 percent after six months had he not repaid (Sue pointed to her sources in the correspondence and letters of Anne Pelham in the British Library).

A transformation over the long eighteenth century was a shift from inherited wealth to created wealth emanating from the industrial revolution and growth in associated professions. This was illustrated by Dr. Anne Stutchbury in 'Standen – Now and Then. A Virtual Tour of an Arts & Craft Country House.' Standen House, a couple of miles south of East Grinstead, was built at the beginning of the 1890s for James and Margaret Beale. James was a solicitor, as had been his father, William Beale, the founder of Beale and Co., Solicitors in Birmingham. James had married Margaret Field in 1870 at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Lillington, Leamington Spa, and they had four daughters and three sons. James' grandfather, William Beale had helped to found the Midland Bank in Birmingham and had served as its director and chairman. The Bank had funded the construction of the Midland Railway and James Beale had developed considerable expertise in the legal requirements of infrastructure projects such as railways.

Margaret and James Beale engaged Philip Speakman Webb as the architect for their planned new home at Standen, a plan that was to incorporate three existing farms, Holly Bush, Stone and Standen. Philip Webb was a close associate of William Morris and together, Webb and Morris had founded the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) in 1877, a precursor to The National Trust founded by Octavia Hill in 1895. The interior of Standen is an apotheosis of the Art and Craft Movement, celebrating the integrity of raw materials, the relationship between form and beauty and the perfection of local crafts. In agreeing and implementing Philip Webb's design, which incorporated the provision of electricity throughout, and central heating, Margaret Beale was actively involved. She was also the creator of the Standen landscapes following a concept of William Morris that there should be a complementarity between the outside and the inside in design.

An enduring theme of history is that of continuity and change and this was addressed by Adrian Tinniswood, OBE, in the final presentation of the day, 'Noble Ambition – The Fall and Rise of the Post-War Country House.' Adrian began with a startling statistic; in 1955 country houses were demolished at a rate of one each week, a destruction fuelled by inheritance tax and the unpredictability of genealogy. Henry Thynne, the second son of the 5th Marquess of Bath inherited the title and debt in 1946 on the death of his father. Partly inspired by the practice at Cheddar Caves, open to the public before the war, Bath developed the concept and opened Longleat to the public in April 1949, attracting 134,000 paying visitors in the first year. Now Longleat is probably most associated with its safari park, an idea introduced to the Marquess by the circus-owner Jimmy Chipperfield. Bath bought into the concept and gained planning permission from the local council to install a perimeter fence 'to contain animals.' Which animals was not specified, the Council did not ask, and preparations could go ahead until, Adrian explained,



Adrian Tinniswood (2021)
Noble Ambitions: The Fall and Rise of the Post-War Country House

Bath boasted at the Bristol Press Club that he was to have fifty lions at Longleat. Despite protests, objections, and mishaps (two cubs managed to squeeze under the inner fence) the Safari Park opened in April 1966.

Where Bath led, others followed. Ian Russell, 13th Duke of Bedford inherited his title and debt in 1953 together with the challenge of keeping Woburn Abbey within the family. He saw the potential of a safari park and after a considerable investment this was opened in May 1970 by the Marquess of Bath. At first the park did not attract the visitors anticipated until, Adrian, explained, at the end of August, a five-year-old girl, sitting in a car with an open window, attracted the attention of a lion and she was mauled. The five-year-old survived and the following weekend 33,000 drove through the Woburn safari park.

Homes changed in ownership with new, celebrity, wealth extending that derived from industry, the professions and inheritance. John Lennon and Yoko Ono bought Tittenhurst Park, near Windsor, in 1969, George Harrison, Friar Park, near Henley-on-Thames and Keith Richards, Redlands in West Wittering.

Participants appreciated the five presentations, the interrelationships between local and national themes, the threads of history that interweave into the tapestry that is Sussex. The Conference was a celebration of Sussex history and acknowledgement of the depth of resource that is available and suggested topics for further exploration – the story of women in the continuity and change of our county.

Philip Robinson

WSAS Chairman's Report - October 2021

In the July issue of The Researcher I reported that, "Your committee is active in its consideration of how we might be more effective in our support [of the Record Office] whilst keeping true to our objects as a society of arousing and stimulating interest, fund raising, seeking out material of historical interest and engaging with each other to foster interest in the history of our local communities.'

I invited your ideas, contributions and participation and it is disappointing to tell you that this request did not evoke any response at all; none, zero, silence.

The challenges have not faded only morphed into a more virulent form. In March, Sophie Wood, the editor of The Researcher and webmaster, will be stepping down from the committee. We urgently need a replacement. I appreciate that for me, and many of you, we are of a generation not immediately at ease with social media. I didn't know that we have 327 followers on Instagram, I'm very grateful that Leigh Lawson continues to feed the 161 followers we have on Facebook. Each needs content to increase awareness of what we do.

If we are to extend our membership and appeal to a wider demographic we need to be active in social media. I appreciate that for many of you, myself included, this lies outside our skill set. However, you may have family amongst whom could be someone wanting to extend their profile with social media for whom working for a heritage charity, WSAS, would strengthen their profile. There may be some of you intrigued by the changing pattern of communication and would like to get involved, or you may have friends who 'play' with social media and might want to develop their skills further.

We need help NOW. It would be good to hear from anyone interested at contact@wsas.co.uk

Philip Robinson

Events Programme

Saturday 30th October 2021 - 2pm

**WSAS Talk: From Refugees to Royalty - the story of the Messel family and Nymans,
A talk by John Hilary**

2pm - Victory Hall, Stockcroft Road, Balcombe, RH17 6HP

On 10 March 1763, the Elector of Hanover issued a Jewish Ordinance expelling all Jews from the county of Bentheim, close to today's border with the Netherlands, one of those refugees was the great great grandfather of Ludwig Messel. The Elector of Hanover was George III. On 6 May 1960 a direct descendant of George III married a direct descendant of Ludwig Messel. A remarkable story that also created Nymans, one of the National Trust's most frequently visited gardens.

Cost: members £4, non-members £6 - tickets available on the door, cash only

Saturday 13th November 2021 - 2pm

WSAS Talk: "Will Longstaff: Jacaroo, Soldier and Artist" a talk by Dr. John Godfrey

2pm - New Millennium Chamber, Littlehampton Museum, Church Street, BN17 5EW

Will Longstaff, a celebrated Australian war artist of the First World War lived in retirement in the Arun Valley and died in 1953 at 71 South Terrace, Littlehampton. In addition to The Menin Gate at Midnight, the work for which he is best known, Longstaff painted many views of Arundel and the Arun Valley, some of which will be on display during the talk.

Cost: No charge but donations will be accepted in support of the Museum and Record Office

WSAS Event Booking Form

Saturday 13th November 2021 - 2pm

WSAS Talk: "Will Longstaff: Jacaroo, Soldier and Artist" a talk by Dr. John Godfrey

2pm - New Millennium Chamber, Littlehampton Museum, Church Street, BN17 5EW

Cost: No charge but donations will be accepted in support of the Museum and the Record Office

Names of members attending: _____

Tel No: _____ Email: _____

Names of non-members attending: _____

Tel No: _____ Email: _____

Donation amount paid (optional - cheques made payable to WSAS): _____

Date of application: _____ Please return slip by **Friday 5th November**

Return slip 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
