

The Researcher



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

COUNTY ARCHIVIST'S UPDATE

Happy New Year and Happy Birthday WSAS

A Happy New Year to all of our WSAS members and supporters. We never know what the year ahead will bring but we know there will always be archives to explore and new stories to tell. This year is a very special one for you all as WSAS will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Founded in 1973 you have been supporting our work and helping to add to the collections and the rich history of the county ever since. We are looking forward to exploring the history of WSAS and helping you to celebrate in the year ahead.

This month we welcome two new members of staff to the Record Office. Jenny Bettger joins us as our new Research Assistant in the Search Room taking over from Alice Millard, who has just started work as a newly qualified archivist on the Freddie Laker Archive, funded by the Business Archives Council. In February she will start working on the Crawley New Town Archive, as part of the New Jerusalem Project funded by the Wellcome Trust. Christopher Olver joins the team as the archivist for our new AIDS/HIV Archive Project, funded by Annabels Foundation. He will be carrying out a survey of AIDS and HIV archives in England and Wales over the next two years. Both Jenny and Chris will be telling you more about themselves in the April Researcher and future issues will include updates on all this work.

December saw the [launch of the Sussex Electoral Registers on Ancestry](#). The registers include more than 8.2 million West Sussex records dating from 1832 to 1963 following on from the launch of the Sussex Parish Registers in May last year. Between 20 May and the end of September the West Sussex Parish Registers have been viewed over 813,000 times. We are looking forward to seeing the latest figures and the level of interest in the electoral registers.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

18 February: The Traditional Windmill in Sussex

25 March: Annual General Meeting
Resolutions for consideration at the AGM must be submitted to the committee via contact@wsas.co.uk no later than FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2023

18 April: Workshop on manorial records at WSRO

17 June: Architectural walk around Midhurst

29 July: Lancing College Chapel and college archive

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

HAVE YOU PAID?

2023 SUBSCRIPTIONS
DUE 1ST JANUARY

January 2023
ISSUE 120

The Sussex wills and probate records are due to be launched later this year.

All the Sussex records on Ancestry can be viewed free of charge at the Record Office, The Keep and libraries across West Sussex and East Sussex. The 1921 Census is now available to access in the same way. It was originally released on Findmypast in January 2022 but is now available free of charge at the Record Office and libraries. Elsewhere in this issue Abigail Hartley, our Search Room Archivist, shares her top tips on using the census.

This month we restarted our Coffee Time Workshops, welcoming participants back to the Record Office with a session on how to start your family tree. Future workshops include house history, old photographs, Ancestry, how to trace your army ancestors, newspapers for family and local history, wills and probate records, and learning to read old handwriting.

Our new Tuesday Talks programme includes Alan Green on the history of the Pallants in Chichester and Dr Kathryn Ferry on the seaside architecture of West Sussex. Watch out also for the next edition of West Sussex Unwrapped with Screen Archive South East in which we will be exploring the archives to see how coronations were celebrated in the past by communities across the county. We will be sharing films and archives of these events in our joint blog and webinar in April ahead of the coronation of King Charles III on 6 May. We will also be inviting people to send us their photographs, films and records of this year's events to add to the archives.

Many of you may remember the story in issue 118 of the Researcher in July when I reported on Alice's amazing research into [The Boy in the Painting: Marcus Thomas, b.1768-d.1816](https://britishart.yale.edu/naming-marcus). Now her research is featured in an article on the website of the Yale Centre for British Art acknowledging her work in identifying the child in Joshua Reynolds's portrait of Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl of Harrington of 1782. Yale have now retitled the painting to include the name of Marcus Richard Fitzroy Thomas. This is the first time in the painting's 240-year-old history that both figures are named (<https://britishart.yale.edu/naming-marcus>). Being able to give people a name and a voice feels an important thing to do so that they can take their place in history and receive the recognition that they deserve. I am looking forward to seeing what other stories the archives will reveal in 2023.



Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl of Harrington, and Marcus Thomas, 1782, by Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792). From the Paul Mellon Collection at Yale Center for British Art (YCBA Collections)

Wendy Walker

Forthcoming events at the Record Office

Tuesday talks

WSAS members are invited to our Tuesday talks, all starting at 7pm. The current programme is as follows:

28 February 2023: **The Pallants: Chichester's town within the city** by Alan Green

28 March 2023: TBC

25 April 2023: **Building-by-the-sea - an architectural history of the West Sussex seaside** by Dr Kathryn Ferry

26 September 2023: TBC

31 October 2023: **The Women's Land Army - a Sussex connection** by Ian Everest

28 November 2023: **Chichester in colour 1973** by Andrew Berriman

The talks in February, April and November can be attended in person or online.

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 remaining programme for 2023 is as follows.

1 February 2023	Researching the history of your house
1 March 2023	Getting started with Ancestry.co.uk
5 April 2023	Reading old handwriting
3 May 2023	Old photographs: how to identify, date and care for them
7 June 2023	Tracing your army ancestors
5 July 2023	Newspapers for family and local history
6 September 2023	Getting started with Ancestry.co.uk
4 October 2023	Discovering wills and other probate records
1 November 2023	Researching the history of your house

Book now!

If you'd like to attend a Tuesday talk **in person**, or one of the workshops, please ring 01243 753602 to book and pay.

To attend a Tuesday talk **online**, for which you don't need any special software, please book on **Eventbrite**.

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.

Accessing the 1921 Census: Abigail Hartley's top tips

Accessing the 1921 census on Findmypast is very simple. At <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> you will already be logged in if you are accessing the website on a library or WSRO computer. From the home page, scroll down a little until you see *Quick Links* and select the first option: *All records sets*.

From there, simply search for 1921, and the first result will be the *1921 Census of England & Wales*. By selecting this result you will be brought to <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/1921-census-of-england-and-wales>. This page allows you to search for individuals, but if you scroll down until you see a column on the right hand side titled *Useful links & resources*, you will be able to navigate addresses instead.

When you do a search and are looking at the list of results, there are two options on the right hand side of each row: *Buy this transcript* or *Buy this image*. Don't worry! So long as you are accessing Findmypast via a library or WSRO computer, you will not have to pay anything. Simply select the option you are interested in – either a transcript of the census entry or the digital image of the original form. When you select either option, Findmypast will state *Checking Access*, then bring up the transcript/image. You can then browse through images, save and download files, or print out the entries.

There is currently a restriction on how many people can view records on Findmypast through our subscription at any given moment. If the website says all seats are full and is preventing you from viewing records, give the website a couple of minutes and refresh the page periodically. You shouldn't be blocked for too long!

WSAS Christmas Get Together

Wendy Walker, County Archivist, kindly hosted our Christmas meeting, and arranged an exhibition of important historical documents that WSAS had recently helped the Record Office to purchase. Everyone attending found much of interest in them, whether highly detailed estate maps or a poster written in Sussex dialect.

Three talks followed, all keeping admirably to the brief of five minutes' speaking time. Richard Mant spoke about an unusual type of church memorial called a hatchment. He explained why they were so named, and why at one time there were more to be found in churches. In size they were about 4 feet high, with a wooden frame and in the shape of a diamond. They had canvas or silk stretched across the frame, and were painted with heraldic symbols.

Then Kim Fleming and Linda Robertson described their work transcribing the complete series of 16th and 17th century depositions from the Chichester archdeaconry's consistory court. Members were shown examples of the scribes' handwriting, and told two stories from the manuscripts: one an affecting tale of a young soldier dying abroad and leaving his possessions to his fiancée, the other a case where Linda had from other sources traced the subject's ultimate fate at the hangman's noose.

Mike Kipling spoke about Hugh Barker (died 1632), master of the Prebendal School and an official of the Dean's court in Chichester. He increased his wealth by lending to local merchants. When one loan defaulted he took ownership of the security, a portfolio of properties in the less salubrious St Pancras parish. Letters studied by Mike reveal the problems Barker experienced in maintaining the properties and collecting the rents, until it became impossible for them to be sold.

Transcribing census records

Why are census transcriptions and indexes so prone to errors that can cause mistakes in research? These notes are based on experience as a volunteer transcriber of the 1851 census. Part of the service that provides Free BMD, FreeCEN offers free on-line census searching and transcriptions, though it does not give access to images of the enumerators' sheets from the National Archives. The website (freecen.org.uk) shows which records have been published to date, including by county: Sussex is pretty well covered, being complete for the censuses of 1871 and 1891, and almost complete for 1851 and 1861.

FreeCEN volunteers join a syndicate, which, under a co-ordinator, is tasked with a particular year and section of the census. All our transactions take place online using email and the FreeCEN volunteer site, which includes a gazetteer. Each volunteer is given a numbered piece, covering for example 15 villages and containing details for several thousand people.

Working from digital images of the original census pages, I complete a spreadsheet containing all the enumeration sheet fields, taking care to copy each entry as it appears, even where the spelling is incorrect. Using a gazetteer or maps, I am permitted to suggest correct spellings for my supervisor's consideration.

Head of household's records

A few days before census night 1851 each head of household was given written instructions on listing in a schedule everyone sleeping there on the night of Sunday 31 March. The enumerator returned the next day to clarify and check the entries, later transferring the data to the enumeration sheets. Many households had to be helped to complete the forms, literacy being then by no means universal.

Heads of household may not have been able to spell their names and place of birth. They commonly entered different birth place names on each 10 year census, sometimes referring to a well-known place nearby, sometimes to a specific hill or farm rather than the formal parish name. County boundary changes cause inconsistent responses too. Poorer people and those who had lost parents may have had only a vague idea about their age.

Despite the threat of fines for incorrect reporting, some people hid their true situation or family secrets. A couple may claim to be married though a spouse lives elsewhere; grandparents may name as their own child the offspring of an unmarried daughter; no one reports their occupation as prostitute or pickpocket.

Enumerator errors and misinterpretations

The enumerators were of course literate, but not necessarily skilled at spelling and writing. Many clearly lacked a wide knowledge of UK geography, simply writing down a place name as they heard it or copying the householder's spelling. Strong regional accents would have influenced the interpretation of these names by the enumerator. One puzzling entry was of a man born in Devon with his place of birth recorded as O'Camden; then I realised the place was most likely Okehampton. Even if the enumerator knew the area, families originating from outside the locality had names and places of birth that might have been unfamiliar to enumerators.

Some enumerators' spelling of names was highly variable, even within a household entry, whilst others might always like to spell a name in a particular way. Whether a researcher can rely on a person's first name in a census being spelt as Maryann or Mary Ann or Marianne, for example, is doubtful without a more reliable source.

Transcriptions and indexing mistakes

In order to make census data available and searchable as soon as possible, websites have employed transcribers, often from abroad, to work fast with little time for checking. As a FreeCEN transcriber I am instructed to transcribe "as seen" even when I know there is an enumerator's error, but there is the option to suggest possible corrections. At the second stage a proofreader checks my transcription and then researches potential corrections, making use of other sources about the people and places concerned.

Transcribing "as seen" means copying spellings recorded in the enumerator books. As we all know the handwriting of some enumerators is difficult to read, and is made worse by the quality of the scanned images of the original sheets. Some tended to write their capital letters with little distinction between for example T, J and F, or I, L and S. A person missing due to a transcriber error of the first letter of a family name requires more imaginative searching. Experienced transcribers working on a whole piece get to know the idiosyncrasies of each officer's handwriting.

A frustration for all users of the enumerator sheets is where words and numbers are illegible under thick black lines and large X marks. Made when counting entries so as to generate census statistics, these marks often completely or partly obscure an individual's age, for example, and can tempt transcribers to make misleading guesses.

Using census indexes and transcriptions

When searching for people and places in censuses WSAS members will be well used to trying any variant spelling of names, broadening and narrowing birthplace searches, searching by known residence or employment, looking for the person's relatives, and checking spellings against parish records and other sources. Experience as a transcriber suggests that searching on all the available genealogical websites also offers more chances of success, if only because most will have been created by different transcribers. That option might help too where the individual has already been found on the enumeration sheet, but other data on the individual row is obscure or doubtful. If you are lucky, a group with expert local knowledge may have created a transcription and name index to their own town or village.

Catherine Tite

Snippets

Habber or Habbor

From a late 16th century context the habber seems to have been a local official associated with the justice system, apparently involved in keeping the peace and/or with taking offenders to the magistrate (the latter consistent with a possible medieval Latin root).

Has anyone come across this term, which is not in the Oxford English Dictionary?

Reply please to contact@wsas.co.uk

Talk by Grahame Joseph on Amberley artists, 29 October 2022

Grahame Joseph, local resident, Chair of the Amberley Society and collector of paintings by artists working in Amberley, gave a most interesting illustrated talk to some 25 members of the Society on the work of artists and makers in Amberley from early times to the present day. Grahame then took us on a guided walk around the village, pointing out houses and studios mentioned in his talk.

The extension of the railway system to the more remote parts of England in the late 19th century encouraged artists to migrate out of the cities, at least during the summer, in search of peace, clean air and light. In these areas, on the coast or in the countryside, they formed colonies of like-minded people and benefitted from the companionship and professional support of other artists. The movement started in France, where it was known as the Barbizon School. Members of the School painted in the open air (en plein air), as did contemporary artists in California and Australia.

In England similar Schools were established in Staithes, North Yorkshire and Newlyn and St Ives in Cornwall. Artists involved included the incomparable Laura Knight (1877-1970), who, in her long career, was among the most successful and popular painters in Britain, Walter Sickert (1860-1942), Walter Langley (1852-1922) and Stanhope Forbes (1857-1947). Amberley followed this pattern, what was then called the Mid Sussex Line (now the Arun Valley Line) arriving at Amberley in 1863, providing a convenient escape for London based artists, and yet still retaining close access to the various art institutions of the capital.

The leading protagonist of art in Amberley was Edward Stott ARA (1855-1918), often referred to as 'the poet and painter of the twilight'. He was born in Rochdale, Lancashire and trained at Manchester Art School and in France. The *Art Journal* of 1889 described the day he arrived in Amberley in 1887 'to seek out a path for himself, to fix his eyes on the goal of his ideal.' He arrived 'on a wet miserable day, and there he has remained, and has made the reputation of the village and himself.' On display at the talk were two of his works. An oil painting 'The Sheep Pool' based around a dew pond on Amberley Mount, depicts a young shepherdess and her flock. Also on show was a pastel sketch of cornfield stooks with a backdrop of a downland chalk pit (see page 15). Grahame pointed out how it epitomised his childhood memories of summertime cycling in Sussex where the predominant colours were various shades of green on green together with punctuations of white under a blue sky. The Downs, trees, buses and trains were green, and the chalk pits, clouds, sheep and seagulls pristine white. Perhaps a tricolour of blue, white and green would make a suitable Sussex flag?

Stott had many followers who joined him in Amberley, including Jose Weiss (1859-1919) from France. He was a prolific rural landscape artist who was equally well known as an important aviation pioneer, particularly in developing flight stability for manned craft. His glider, piloted by Eric Gordon-England, which flew from Amberley Mount in 1909, was the first ever soaring flight where a glider gained altitude. Other notable Amberley artists included Ethelbert White (1891-1972), the artist and wood engraver who described himself as a 'pastoralist' and trained with his friend, war

artist C.R.W.Nevinson (1889-1946), and portrait artist Fred Stratton (1870-1960) and his son Hilary (1906-1985), who was born in Amberley and became a well-known sculptor, at one time working under Eric Gill at Ditchling. Jessica Dismorr (1885-1939) was a leading radical woman artist, from Fauvist painter, through Rhythm, to Vorticism abstraction. She painted under the American Max Bohm at Étaples, France where she became friends with painter Catherine Giles (1878-1955) and her cousin, illustrator Gertrude Leese (1870-1963), both of whom had homes in Amberley. Leese, an unofficial Great War artist, made sketches revealing the day-to-day realities of life at the notorious Allied military base at Étaples, known as 'The Bull Ring'. Society portrait and war artist Simon Elwes (1902-75), whom Churchill liked to paint with, lived in the village and Arthur Rackham (1867-1939), recognised as one of the leading figures during the Golden Age of British book illustration, lived nearby at Houghton House.

In the nineteen twenties there were no less than ten studios in the village. It must have been quite a sight for villagers when, each summer, the London trains discharged at Amberley station groups of artistic bohemians, burdened by their luggage and equipment, to be conveyed by horse and cart, no doubt noisily, to the village. Grahame told us that over the years some 100 artists and makers have lived in the village and are documented in the Amberley Society archives. Currently there are at least four professional artists living in the village. Grahame concluded his talk by reminding us of the exhibition *Sussex Landscape: Chalk, Wood & Water* at Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, from 12th November 2022 to 23rd April 2023. No doubt the work of some of the artists Grahame introduced us to will feature in the exhibition. The afternoon concluded with a stroll around the churchyard to see the memorial to Edward Stott on the east wall, after which Grahame accompanied us around the village, pointing out houses he had mentioned in his talk and reminding us of who had lived and worked where. Altogether, an excellent afternoon and many thanks to Grahame for telling us about artists in Amberley.

Dr. John Godfrey

Talk by Chris Hare on Hilaire Belloc and Sussex, 19 November 2022

Sixty people, thirty-eight of whom were not WSAS members, crowded the beautiful Coronation Hall in Slindon to hear Chris Hare. His talk was on '*Hilaire Belloc: landscape, people and myth*', a fascinating and entertaining account of the complex life of Belloc. Possibly a first for WSAS was a speaker who also sang a couple of Belloc's poems set to music.

Hilaire was born in France in July 1870, just before the Battle of Sedan, to an English mother, Elizabeth (Bessie) née Parkes and French father, Louis Belloc. The turmoil of the Franco-Prussian war caused the family to temporarily leave France for England. Following the death of her husband in 1872 Bessie and her two children, Marie and Hilaire, moved permanently back to London. In theory Bessie was comfortably provided for, though her inheritances from her family and from her late husband were mismanaged. Bessie had to leave London to live more economically and moved to Slindon, where she lived for forty five years until her death, aged 95, in 1925.

Bessie had known Cardinal Manning who also became a strong influence on Hilaire's developing understanding of religion. Though his Catholic faith was central to his identity it was, Chris Hare commented, interlaced with pagan traditions, particularly those linked to the moon. He suggested that it was easy to understand why rites and rituals of the past were so frequently linked to the moon rather than the sun. The moon changed shape in a regular sequence, it had a direct effect on the tides, its symbolic importance caught in *The Four Men* (published 1912): "*It was very cold and the moon rode over Chanctonbury in a clear heaven*".

Belloc was a man with resolute passion. In 1890 he met, and fell in love, with an Irish-American girl, Elodie Hogan. In 1891 he travelled to California, making drawings which he sold to finance his trip, only to discover that Elodie had entered a convent. Fortunately for Hilaire, though Elodie remained a devout Catholic, she did not take to the vocational life and they married in 1896. Their first child, Louis, arrived a year later and four others followed, two of whom, Louis and Peter, were killed in the First and in the Second World Wars respectively. Elodie died in King's Land, Shipley, near Hors-ham, in February 1914, the Belloc home to which the family had moved in 1906. He remained devoted to her memory until his own death in July 1953.

In January 1906 Belloc was elected as Liberal Member of Parliament for Salford South, though he didn't sit easily within the Commons. He was not a natural party man, was deeply concerned by the plight of the poor, and angered by the way in which the media represented the interests of the wealthy and castigated those in poverty. In the end, as Chris described, he witnessed parliamentary opponents socialising at their country seats, tinkering tokenism rather than a realistic engagement with the distribution of wealth to the benefit of all. Hilaire Belloc did not stand for the second election of 1910.

Of particular interest to WSAS members was Belloc the historian. He had read history at Balliol College, Oxford and continued to promote the necessity of history to an understanding of the contemporary world. Unless we know where we come from we cannot fully comprehend the present, nor adequately prepare ourselves for the times to come. History provides methodology and topography the object of investigation, and for Hilaire Belloc that was the County of Sussex captured in *The Four Men*: "... if a man is part of and is rooted in one steadfast piece of earth, which has nourished him and given him his being, and if he can on his side lend it glory and do it service (I thought), it will be a friend to him for ever, and he has outflanked Death in a way:

So therefore, though myself be crosst
The shuddering of that dreadful day
When friend and fire and home are lost
And even children drawn away –
The passer-by shall hear me still,
A boy that sings on Duncton Hill."

Chris Hare gave us an uplifting talk, true to the complexities and contradictions in the life of Hilaire Belloc, imbued with a love of place and the people in it, and a celebration of how we all can be the one who sings on Duncton Hill and then enjoy the conviviality of *The Cricketers* at its foot.

We were grateful to Jane and Richard Mant for the provision of refreshments and appreciated the opportunity to buy Chris Hare's most recent book '*Hilaire Belloc: The Politics of Living*' ISBN: 978-1-897739-32-7

Martin Hayes

Nearly every WSAS member will have come across Martin Hayes. One of the best known players in the field of local history in the county, he is the creator of so many of the research and community projects that we risk taking for granted. The Researcher thought that we ought to learn more about this pivotal figure.

His innings as the County Local Studies Librarian, now based at the WSRO, has lasted for 36 years. “I love the job”, he says simply in reply to the obvious question. But his secret is to have reinvented the role and its scope whenever he felt that maintenance was starting to crowd out initiative. Martin’s great love – and skill – is to involve people in working together on clearly designed and worthwhile projects. That means that his collaborators learn new skills and acquire new knowledge, and the rest of us benefit from what is created.

Growing up in the Black Country, Martin studied history at Queen Mary College, University of London, his first librarian job being in Croydon. The post at West Sussex had been newly created, his first task being to define what was needed. Married to an archivist and having experienced some museum functions in Croydon, he was from the start ideally qualified to work together with other professions.

What major publications in recent years and on-line resources about West Sussex do we all know about? His was the plan to digitise West Sussex newspapers, now available in every one of the county’s 36 libraries, cutting out the need for microfilms. Surely every WSAS member has used the wonderful West Sussex Past Pictures database that holds over 13,000 images of the county. That was one of Martin’s initiatives, requiring him to win external funding through a particularly demanding funding application. He speaks excitedly about how the Weald & Downland Museum in Singleton was the first to make its holdings available to the database, and what a revelation its collection was.

Then there is the Great War West Sussex project, begun well in advance of the centenary so that research could be completed in good time. Its initial scope was quickly expanded as 150 volunteers turned up eager to help. Just one of the outputs is the schedule of 14,000 West Sussex people – soldiers and others – involved in the war mentioned in local newspapers. As well as the on-line information there is the much admired book published by the History Press. Martin was the editor and sub-editor, and wrote two chapters on the social history context of that war. Policy makers should note how inspiring and co-ordinating so many volunteers to populate an extensive website, design a travelling exhibition and put on community events generates a huge net benefit.

Anyone knowing Martin’s work will cite his skill at securing grants. What is his secret for an un-refusable application? His answer is simple, but so often missed: read the criteria, and keep re-reading them. Over time he has tracked how grant giving bodies’ criteria have changed. For example currently it is important that proposals have considered such benefits as diversity, boosting the local economy, and reaching new audiences.

What areas of historical research in West Sussex, we wondered, does Martin consider remain under investigated. On reflection he thought it might be poor relief and the workhouse system. Much less is heard about poor relief in West Sussex history than in, say, London, and there may be reasons for that. But, since almost all of us have poor ancestors, any family historian for example ought to understand the system operating at various periods before the welfare state.

Martin offered a piece of wisdom to make all us WSAS members think. There is no lack of societies in the county interested in various aspects of its history. What is important, though, is to make sure we are aware of who is working on what, so as to reduce the risk of wasted effort and to improve the quality of our own researches.

To be recognised by one's peers is one thing: in 2017 Martin was awarded an honorary fellowship by CILIP, the professional body for librarians. But back in 1994 he received the British Cartographic Society's annual Godfrey Award for "furthering the use, appreciation and understanding of maps": to be recognised by specialists from another field is an extra honour.

Space prevents a full list of the Hayes bibliography, but it is clear that one subject still appeals deeply. That is the amazing Walter Gardiner photography archive of 1893 to 2000, comprising 116,000 items (see <https://www.photohistory-sussex.co.uk/GardinerWorthing.htm>). It is another of those last minute rescue stories, in this case depending on Martin and a colleague physically transporting the whole collection with hardly any notice. In due course we might hope to see more from him on the Gardiners and their work, perhaps once retirement offers more time for the research and writing.

Kim Fleming

Storrington Museum Event

A walk around the cathedral city of Chichester: Talk by James Dickinson

Friday 3 February 2023 at 2.30pm

Venue: Storrington Museum, the Old School, School Lane, Storrington, RH20 4LL.

You've been to Chichester many times, but have you had time to find out about the history, the famous people who lived there and the buildings? This is a tour of Chichester with information about the city, its history from Roman times, its Georgian architecture and the wonderful cathedral.

James Dickinson is an amateur historian and his talks are fully illustrated with photographs and other pictures. His talks are full of colourful, entertaining and humorous material. History can and should be fun.

Come and find out about Chichester and its past.

WSAS members £6, non members £8. Pay at the door. Refreshments included.

Chairman's Report

I need your help.

When I became your Chairman at the AGM in 2020, we had a committee of thirteen members, including the County Archivist (ex-officio). There were three vacancies, thus a 'working' committee of ten' and so it has remained. At the 2023 AGM five members reach the end of their current period of office and we should be very grateful that three have agreed to offer themselves for a further three year period.

As your Chairman I am not able to offer myself for a further period of office. WSAS will be run by a 'working' committee of eight and I urge you to consider completing the enclosed Nomination Form and enjoy taking a more active part in our Society.

We exist to '*advance the education of the public in the history of West Sussex,*' supporting the Record Office in acquiring, preserving and disseminating knowledge and fostering the understanding of the evolution of our glorious County. It is a worthwhile task as you, our members, confirm through your subscriptions and attendance at events.

What your committee can offer you is constrained by the initiatives its members are able to promote – eight cannot do the work of thirteen. Your ideas for events are essential and enrich the experience for all, but do need volunteers to turn the dream into reality.

In order to ease the tasks of the Committee we will be proposing to the AGM some slight modifications to our 2014 Constitution that, if agreed will be sent to the Charity Commission for approval. In essence these are removing the post of Vice-Chairman from the Constitution, and aligning the procedures for calling an Annual General Meeting and, if required, a Special General Meeting. The removal from the Constitution of the title Vice-Chairman would not prevent the committee creating such a post, if it so wished, but as an operational rather than a constitutional requirement.

As you will read in this edition of *The Researcher*, there is much to celebrate, much to look forward to and opportunities for a great deal of enjoyment through our activities that are created and nourished through the enthusiasms of our committee. Do give serious consideration to joining that endeavour and **complete a nomination form**.

With thanks

Philip Robinson

WSAS Committee

<i>Philip Robinson</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Helen Whittle</i>	<i>Journal Editor</i>
<i>Leigh Lawson</i>	<i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Kim Fleming</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>
<i>Richard Howell</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Dr. John Godfrey</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>
<i>Jane Mant</i>	<i>Treasurer, & Membership Secretary</i>	<i>Jeff Staniforth</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>
<i>Susan Millard</i>	<i>Information Manager</i>	<i>Wendy Walker</i>	<i>County Archivist</i>

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 Events

The Traditional Windmill in Sussex: Talk by Guy Blythman

Saturday 18 February 2023 at 2.00pm

Venue: The Billingshurst Centre, Roman Way, Billingshurst RH14 9QW

A writer, philosopher and historian, Guy Blythman will share with us some of his extensive knowledge of the history and construction of windmills, with particular reference to those in Sussex. Amongst his large number of books on a wide range of subjects is Volume One of "Sussex Windmills and Millers", which was published in 2021.

Parking is free at the venue. The talk will be held in the Stanley Room. Refreshments will be served afterwards, and the event will finish at 4pm.

49th Annual General Meeting, and illustrated talk

Saturday 25 March 2023 at 11.30am for 12 noon

Venue: The Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, RH20 3PP

Tea and coffee will be served from 11.30am; the Annual General Meeting will begin at 12 noon. At 2.30pm there will be an illustrated talk by Ian Everest on "**Shepherds of the South Downs**".

Lunch will be: vegetarian quiche, potatoes and salad; followed by cheesecake and fruit.

In February a detailed timetable for the AGM day will be sent to all members.

WSAS workshop: a day exploring Manorial Records

Led by Dr Caroline Adams and Susan Millard

Tuesday 18 April 2023, starting at 9.30am

Venue: West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester PO19 1DD

This course is ideal for beginners who would like to learn about these much neglected records. We will look at court rolls, accounts, surveys and maps, and will learn how to get the best out of them.

The day will begin at 9.30am for coffee, the workshop starting at 10.00am. It will close with a cup of tea at 3.15pm.

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

Windmills Booking Form

please return by **Friday 10 February 2023**

The Traditional Windmill in Sussex: Talk by Guy Blythman

Saturday 18 February 2023 at 2.00pm

Venue: The Billingshurst Centre, Roman Way, Billingshurst RH14 9QW

Cost: members £6, non members £8

Names of members attending:

Tel. No.: Email/address:

Names of non members attending:.....

Tel. No.:..... Email/address:

Amount paid (cheques made payable to WSAS):.....

AGM Booking Form

please return by **Saturday 11 March 2023**

Saturday 25 March 2023 at 11.30am for 12 noon

Venue: The Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington, RH20 3PP

Cost for members attending the whole event, including lunch: £15

Cost for non members attending the talk only (from 2pm): £5.

Names of members attending the

AGM

Tel. No.....Email/address.....

Are you staying to lunch? YES/NO

Names and emails of non members attending the talk only (from 2.00 pm)

.....

Manorial Records Booking Form

please return by **Friday 14 April 2023**

Manorial Records: a study day, led by Dr Caroline Adams

Tuesday 18 April 2023, starting at 9.30am

Venue: West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester PO19 1DD

Cost (including coffee, tea and biscuits): members £15, non members £18

Names of members attending:

Tel. No.: Email/address:

Names of non members attending:.....

Tel. No.:..... Email/address:

We do not issue tickets or receipts for booking forms.

For queries please contact: contact@wsas.co.uk Event details are also at: www.wsas.co.uk

Please return booking forms to: WSAS, c/o West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RN.



Chalk Pit near Amberley
1903, by Edward Stott ARA (1855-1918)

[Wikimedia Commons](#)

West Sussex Archives Society
49th Annual General Meeting 2023
NOMINATION FORM
OFFICER(S) AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All posts come up for re-election after three years on the WSAS committee.

Philip Robinson has completed three years as Chairman and is now standing down.

The following have completed three years on the committee and are standing for re-election: Richard Howell, Leigh Lawson and Sue Millard.

The committee invites nominations for the following positions on the committee:

- Chairman
- Committee Member

The committee is always very pleased to welcome new members to the committee.

If you would like to nominate yourself, or someone else (*please check that they are willing to stand*) for the position of Chairman or as a member of the committee, please complete the form below and send it to the Chairman, Philip Robinson, at the West Sussex Record Office by Saturday 11 March 2023.

West Sussex Archives Society: AGM 2023

Nominations for (please tick);

- Chairman
- Committee Member

Name of Candidate

Tel. no/email:

Name of Proposer:

Tel no/email

Name of Seconder:

Tel. no/email