

The Researcher



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

County Archivist's report to the AGM

I am very pleased to be with you today to give the County Archivist's Report to the 49th AGM of the West Sussex Archives Society in this the 50th anniversary year of the founding of the Society. I would like to share some of the highlights and activities of the last twelve months as we look forward to the year ahead.

The last twelve months we have welcomed three new staff members and are about to say goodbye to three more. Chris Olver and Jenny Bettger have joined us as the HIV/AIDS Archive Project Archivist and our new Research Assistant respectively, whilst Nicki Clarke joined us as our Records Management Assistant on the retirement of Andy George. Abigail Hartley, our Search Room Archivist, had her last day with us on 24 March and Martin Hayes, the County Studies Librarian, will be retiring this month after 36 years with West Sussex, latterly based at the Record Office. Abbie is moving on to pastures new to take up an exciting role as an archivist at the University of Edinburgh and we wish her well in the next stage of her career. We will miss them both and have much to thank them for. Martin leaves behind a great legacy at WSCC Libraries and the Record Office, not least in his hugely successful projects including Great War West Sussex and Military Voices. He has also been responsible for ensuring the preservation of a range of significant archives, including the wonderful Walter Gardiner photographic archive, 1893-2000, which has recently been transferred to the Record Office.

In 2022 we received some 269 accessions with archives dating from the 13th century to the present day, and ranging in size and format from individual deeds, postcards and plans to significant archive collections. The earliest documents received were nine medieval title deeds, c1260-1463, that intriguingly came up for sale in Malaga, relating to properties from across the UK, including a 1336 deed of Worthing. The Friends of the National Libraries very kindly provided a grant for this purchase, and we have been busy redistributing the remaining eight deeds to the appropriate Record Offices across the country. In contrast our most recent acquisitions have included records from 2022 relating to the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II and sadly the condolence books on her death in September.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

20 May: Rottingdean - Kipling, Coppers and Cluedo - **BOOK NOW**

17 June: Architectural walk around Midhurst - **BOOK NOW**

29 July: Lancing College chapel and college archive - **BOOK NOW**

23 September: Tangmere Military Aviation Museum visit

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As well as deposits from churches, schools and WIs and additions to existing archives such as Chichester Festival Theatre and Goodwood, we have received records from the Chichester Symphony Orchestra, Worthing Cricket Club, Pagham Friendship Group, Billingshurst Community Partnership, Hassocks Horticultural Society, the North Mundham Playing Field Trust, the Midhurst and Chichester Labour Party and the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Truly all manner of life is here.

Highlights amongst the archives that we received this year have been an illustrated list of names of the founding and original members of Singleton and East Dean WI dating from 1915, the first WI to be set up in England; and the papers of Richard Williamson (1935-2022), the writer and naturalist who lived near Chichester. Born in Devon, the son of Henry Williamson (author of *Tarka the Otter*), he was brought up in Norfolk and served in the RAF before embarking on a career with the Nature Conservancy, later known as English Nature and now Natural England.

We are continuing to take in an increasing number of digital archives, which this year have included records and diaries to add to our COVID-19 Community Archive. Jo McConville, our Digital Preservation Archivist, has been busy using Preservica, our digital preservation software, ingesting our digital archives into this system to ensure their long-term preservation and access.

We have also had a very successful year in the saleroom thanks largely to the generosity of WSAS, the Sussex Family History Group and a series of grants from The Friends of the National Libraries. Aside from the unusual sale in Malaga, our purchases this year have included the Baybridge Canal Archive, 1825-1875; a map of Steepwood Farm in West Chiltington, 1792; an album of photographs of labourers laying a waterpipe along Yapton Road in Barnham from 1911; a broadside against Chichester cattle market written in Sussex dialect, 1866; the diary of Francis Fearon of London and Cuckfield from 1858-1860; an account book of John Pilbeam of Ardingly, 1720s-1760s; and last but not least correspondence between William Cowper and William Hayley in 1792, originally part of the Honresfield Library which was saved for the nation by the Friends of the National Libraries in conjunction with a series of donors, including Leonard Blavatnik, last year.

We are hugely grateful to WSAS for the support that it continues to give us in making all of this possible, and ensuring that West Sussex documents are saved to be made available for everyone to explore at the Record Office.

I should just add that we have some breaking news to share with you all this afternoon. In December last year an important collection of deeds and papers relating to the Great House Estate in West Hoathly and the manor of West Hoathly Rectory came up for sale through an auction house in Lewes. Dating from 1453-1964 this archive is remarkably complete and comprises several hundred documents. It is rare that the entire archive of a small Wealden estate, with an unbroken title from 1524, appears on the market. This archive is further enhanced by the presence of a manorial court book, rentals and court papers from 1662, and by documents produced as a consequence of its ownership by a resident of Barbados, on whose behalf the estate was administered by local agents between 1694 and 1716. Between 1716 and 1721 their dealings were examined in Chancery, shedding light on the estate during that period as well as on transatlantic communications.

I am very pleased to be able to announce today that we have been successful in raising all the necessary funding to purchase this archive as a result of very generous grants from the Friends of the National Libraries, the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, WSAS and the Sussex Family History Group. I look forward to sharing more on this with you in due course.

In June 2022 we celebrated the end of our inspirational Transatlantic Ties Project with a Symposium at the University of Chichester. This brought everyone together to share the work and research carried out over the last three years and to launch our new [Transatlantic Ties](#) website. The project, funded by the [Mellon](#)

[Foundation](#) in New York, built upon the discoveries surrounding [Sussex Declaration](#) in 2017-2018. As one project closes another begins. Alice Millard has just completed her work on the Freddie Laker Archive, courtesy of a grant from the Business Archive Council, and has started work on the Archive of the Crawley New Town Development Corporation as part of our New Jerusalems Project funded by the Wellcome Trust in partnership with eight other archive services across the UK and Ireland. Meanwhile Chris Olver is making good progress on our [HIV/AIDS Archive Project](#), funded by Annabels Foundation, to survey all the surviving records in England and Wales.

With the coronation of King Charles III in May we will be taking the opportunity to look back at previous coronations, as well as to put out a call for people to send us their photographs, films and records of this year's celebrations. In April we are joining forces with Screen Archive South East once more for a new edition of West Sussex Unwrapped, [A County Celebrates: Coronations Past and Present](#), when we will be looking at how past coronations were celebrated across the county using archives, photographs and films from 1937 and 1953. This and previous editions will also be available shortly on the [West Sussex Record Office YouTube Channel](#).

As ever the key work of the Record Office continues in the Search Room and behind the scenes in our Strong Rooms, Digitisation Suite and Conservation Studio. All the work that we undertake demonstrates the skill and dedication of our staff, who share their passion for archives and the history of the county each and every day. I am often in awe of their achievements and the way that they all work together to make things happen. I am hugely grateful to them all, as well as to our dedicated and growing band of volunteers and all our depositors who continue to put their trust and their documents with us.

This year has seen the passing of Tim McCann, who joined the staff in 1967 and leaves a deep and abiding legacy of his 40 years at the Record Office. Last May Lady Kenya Tatton-Brown died at the age of 98. She regularly attended WSAS AGMs and was a great supporter of the work of the Record Office. We mourn their passing and salute their many achievements. We are lucky to have known them both.

I would like to end by wishing WSAS a very Happy 50th Birthday. We will be helping you celebrate later in the year with a special Record Office Open Day on 25 November when, as well as balloons and cake, we will be displaying some of the many documents you have helped us to buy over the years. I look forward to seeing you there.

WSAS Committee - from 25 March 2023

Richard Howell	Chairman	Carol Brinson	Committee Member
Leigh Lawson	Secretary	Kim Fleming	Committee Member
Jane Mant	Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Dr. John Godfrey	Committee Member
		Mike Kipling	Committee Member
		Susan Millard	Information Manager
		Wendy Walker	County Archivist
		Helen Whittle	Journal Editor

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](#)

Chairman's report from the 49th Annual General meeting

25 March 2023

At our AGM twelve months ago we were privileged to hear Kate Pugh, former Chief Executive of the Heritage Alliance. Her message was that engagement in voluntary activity was good for wellbeing. She introduced an aphorism, '*Places look after people as people look after places.*'

Our next two visits exemplified that maxim. Greg and Katherine Slay gave a guided tour of Graylingwell Hospital, built in 1897 as West Sussex County Lunatic Asylum. They demonstrated the relationship between place and wellbeing and explained how that interaction had changed through time. The tour ended at the refurbished, and unconsecrated, Graylingwell Chapel with its admirable display of the history of the site and excellent refreshments.

At our next visit to Hammerwood House we were introduced to a Coade stone plaque that at first sight appeared to represent people assembled to celebrate a festival of the gods. Our guide and owner of Hammerwood, David Pinnegar, physicist, musician, classicist, renaissance man, corrected that misconception. The plaque represented the interrelationship between the worlds of the mind and of nature caught by the phrase "*The Gods look after children and drunken men*".

David Pinnegar had advised that we let the building itself be the archive, and in September Heather Warne saw landscape as key to an understanding of communities. The patchwork quilt of ownership in the High Weald and absence of a dominant landowner facilitated the exploration of religious dissent. Heather provided an insight as to why Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, leased property within the Wealden parish of Wivelsfield.

In October we were privileged to hear Grahame Joseph, Chair of the Amberley Society and collector of paintings by artists who had worked and lived in the village. They exemplified and extended the *en plein air* movement started in France in the late 19th century. Predominant amongst them were Edwin Stott (1855-1918) and Christopher Nevinson (1889-1946), whose *View of the Sussex Weald* was on display at Pallant House Gallery in November.

The year ended with one of the largest attendances in the history of WSAS events. Chris Hare talked and sang to 60 people in Slindon on Hilaire Belloc and Sussex illustrating the aphorism with which we began the year: if a person is part of and rooted in one steadfast piece of earth, from which nourishment has been drawn and to whom service has been given it will be a friend for ever and our wellbeing sustained.

The publication of West Sussex History No. 90 underscored the strength and range of scholarship. Leigh Lawson gave an exemplary account of how to read a house as an archive from fragments and documents, Mike Kipling on how Westminster equity court records can illuminate the life of early seventeenth century merchants in Chichester, and Alan Green on why Queen Victoria shot through Chichester at 80 mph. A range of topics and styles, and our thanks to our editor, Helen Whittle, for another fascinating and stimulating edition.

The year can be judged as a success, given the nature and range of activities, the continued publication of our newsletter and our annual journal. A theme in each of my reports to you, and featured in our newsletters, is that we are vulnerable as an organisation without more help. Last year I characterised as an 'existential threat' that five members of the committee came to the end of their three-year period of office. We can be grateful that three have offered to continue and that we can welcome two new members. This gives a committee of nine (excluding the County Archivist who is a member ex officio).

WSAS makes a valuable contribution to publishing and protecting the artefacts of West Sussex. We have success in supporting our Record Office in its acquisitions that could easily go elsewhere. We have success in taking the message of the importance of the Record Office across the county. These achievements are fragile and dependent upon the enthusiasm of the committee; nine cannot undertake what was once the domain of thirteen.

Philip Robinson

Summary of decisions made at the Annual General Meeting

Subscriptions

It was agreed that from 1 January 2024 subscriptions should be raised to:

- .. individual membership - £22
- .. joint membership - £24
- .. life membership - £440.

Amendment to the WSAS constitution

Because the proposition had not been circulated to members within the required 28 days, the chairman called for an indicative vote from the members present on the proposed amendment to the constitution that the position of vice chairman on the committee should be disestablished. The change would not prevent there being a vice chairman, but it would remove the need for the position to be voted on by the membership. The vote was 15 members for the amendment, 4 members against, and 2 members abstaining.

Election of officers and committee members

The following had been proposed and were agreed:

- .. chairman: Richard Howell
- .. secretary: Leigh Lawson
- .. members: Carol Brinson, Mike Kipling, Helen Whittle.

For the full membership of the committee see page 3.

2024 AGM date

It was decided that the next AGM would be held on Saturday 16 March 2024.

New member of staff at the Record Office: Research Assistant

Hello, I am Jenny Bettger, the new Research Assistant at the Record Office, helping customers who cannot attend in person with their research projects.



I grew up in a small village near Midhurst and attended university in Chichester, studying History and English. I have been researching my own family history for many years, visiting record offices and archives across the country including the National Archives to seek out the records you just can't access online. Prior to joining the team at the Record Office, I worked at Chichester Festival Theatre and am excited to look at their collection in our archive.

I am so enjoying working at the Record Office, turning my long-time hobby into a career, and already feeling part of the team. Everyone in the searchroom has been so kind and helpful while I familiarise myself with the collections we hold here at West Sussex.

New member of staff at the Record Office: Project Archivist

Hello, I am Chris Olver, the Project Archivist for "Documenting the HIV/AIDS epidemic: a survey of HIV/AIDS archives in England and Wales. I am excited to be working on this project, having long wondered what happened to some of the archive records associated with the epidemic in the United Kingdom when cataloguing the HIV/AIDS collections at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) back in 2014.



After many years living and working in London, it is great not having to commute any more, and I love living in Chichester, close to the coast and the South Downs. This job sometimes feels closer to being an archives detective as I try to track down what happened to the records of defunct organisations from the 1980s and 1990s.

My interest in the history of HIV/AIDS comes about partly from an academic interest in the history of medicine, which I studied to MA level, and also through working with HIV/AIDS collections at LSHTM and more recently at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). At the LMA I catalogued the filmed interviews created by the National HIV Story Trust. Since qualifying as an archivist in 2012 I have been fortunate to work with some fascinating collections, such as the papers of Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the modern hospice movement, and of Maurice Wilkins, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, both at King's College London, and for a few years I was the archivist at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in Putney.

I always welcome the chance to talk about my work, so do feel free to drop me an email; or you can keep up to date on the project through my regular postings on the WSRO blog.

Visit to Old Bakehouse, Broadwater

Saturday 10 June and Sunday 11 June 2023

Two sessions each day, arriving any time between 10:30 - 12:30 and 14:30 - 16:30.

Places limited, booking essential. Tickets £5 (proceeds go to West Sussex Archives Society). To book apply to: <https://worthingheritagefestival.co.uk/events/> - or send a cheque to WSAS as per other events.

Visit the old bakehouse in Broadwater at the rear of 21 Broadwater Street East, BN14 9AA, an event hosted by Leigh and Richard Lawson for the Worthing Festival on behalf of West Sussex Archives Society. Access to the bakehouse is up the driveway next to 19 Broadwater Street East which was formerly the baker's shop and Post Office. There is one step down, and the floor is uneven.

This is a rare opportunity to see inside the Victorian bakehouse. It was built for William Manwaring, grocer and postmaster, in the 1860s. The side-flue oven was built by W. H. Webber of Brighton and can be seen with the prover, water tank and pyrometer still in situ. William Manwaring and his wife Eliza Paine were forbears of the well known local firm Paine Manwaring. After William's death in 1897 his eldest sons continued to run the bakery until it was taken over by George Knight of Cowfold in 1910. Knights the Bakers were there until 1948 when the bakery closed.

There will be an exhibition including baking tools donated by Knights the Bakers and a collection of items found beneath the floorboards of the cottage. The cottage will not be open to the public, but census returns, photographs and documents related to it and the bakehouse, the earliest being a copy recovery of the Court Roll of Broadwater Manor dated 1781, will be on display.

Talk by Guy Blythman on Sussex Windmills and Millers

18 February 2023

The review of Guy Blythman's *Sussex Windmills and Millers* in *West Sussex History No.90* begins 'This is an incredible project...'. Those who attended Guy's talk in Billingshurst in February would agree. He is the consummate molinologist, and author of 23 books from fiction to history, philosophy, theology as well as mills. The latter include the *Windmills of Berkshire and Oxfordshire* and *Windmills of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*. At Billingshurst Guy introduced us to the first of three volumes he is completing: *Sussex Windmills and Millers* will include a gazetteer that will cover the whole of the ancient county.

The talk was wide ranging. There is evidence of windmills in Babylon ten thousand years ago. The technology was developed by the Romans, and the first reliable reference to an English windmill is to Amberley in the 1180s¹. The importance of mills is paramount to human survival, for they grind the corn that provides the flour that bakes the bread. There is a complementarity between water mills and windmills as each is dependent on variable natural resources, rivers dry up, the wind doesn't always blow.

Guy explained that there are three principal types of windmill: post, tower and smock. In our part of Sussex we have the opportunity to see examples of all three. The post mill is a single post around which a box is built to carry the grinding mechanism and the axle for the sweeps, a term used in Sussex and Kent for the sails. Coming from the box would be a beam or tail that would allow the miller to orientate the sweeps so that they caught the wind. There is a post mill at High Salvington, north of Worthing, dating from the mid 18th century, which has been restored by volunteers.

Post mills were small, usually with only one pair of millstones. As the population increased in the 17th and 18th centuries larger mills were needed. The tower mills allowed for two or more pairs of millstones and space to store equipment and milled flour. At the top of the tower is a cap that holds the axle for the sweeps and which can itself be turned in to the wind. Halnaker Mill, temporarily without its sweeps, is a well known marker of the Downs landscape. It operated from about 1740 to the early part of the 20th century when it was damaged in a storm. It was restored by Sir William Bird² in 1934 as a memorial to his wife. Chris Hare in his talk on Belloc last November made reference to the mill: "Sally is gone that was so kindly, Sally is gone from Ha'nacker Hill". It was Belloc who owned The King's Windmill in Shipley, a smock mill, the design of which originated in the Netherlands, thought to resemble the garments worn by country folk.

The author is to be congratulated for providing such a detailed and comprehensive gazetteer. Volume One, *Sussex Windmills and Millers*, with a gazetteer of sites A – C, is available at www.guyblythman.com. It is an essential reference to anyone working on the social and economic history of Sussex. After the talk members were grateful to Jane and Richard Mant for the refreshment of a cup of tea and piece of cake.

Philip Robinson

1 'I, Seffrid II, Bishop of Chichester, have given in almoyn to Holy Trinity, Chichester for the use of the Canons in residence the windmill which I first had built at Amberle and the tithe of hay from all my demesne there;' Walter Peckham, Chichester Chartulary, *Sussex Record Society*, Vol. 46, page 41 available sussexrecordsociety.org.

2 Sir William Bird and Lady Martha were generous benefactors to Eartham. William was M.P. for Chichester (April 1921 to December 1923); Martha died at her home, Eartham House, in January 1933.

'Shepherds of the South Downs: their lives and times'

25 March 2023

Members were treated to a perfect talk to follow an AGM, a talk that, like the Downs we love, was undulated with surprising valleys, scarps and glorious panoramas. Ian Everest's illustrated presentation was wide in scope, beginning with the story of St. Cuthman, his wheelbarrow and mother, the symbolism of the shepherd as in the Church of the Good Shepherd at Lullington, the significance of the South Downs sheep, the creation of John Ellman (1753 – 1832), and the rhythm of the shepherd's year.

Ian explained that the Downland shepherds thought themselves above the rest: they were intelligent, responsible and above all trustworthy. He illustrated these characteristics through some biographies, for example that of Stephen Blackmore of Stanmore Park. Stephen was disabled at eight when he lost an arm in an accident with an agricultural machine designed to cut straw for feeding animals. His mother was not well pleased, as this might restrict Stephen's employment prospects, and his father refused him chloroform when the wound was being dressed. Having begun as a messenger boy, by 1851 he was an agricultural labourer and by 1895 head shepherd, responsible for 500 sheep at a farm in East Dean, near Birling Gap. He died aged 87 in Steyning in 1919.

Having provided a wide sweep of the world of the shepherd, Ian then took us through its seasonal cycle. In November the rams went to the ewes with an expected lambing time the following April. In the summer came sheep washing in preparation for shearing when the principal economic return from the South Down sheep was realised. In his description of shearing Ian had a surprise for most of his audience. The familiar proverb '*Don't spoil a ship for a ha'porth o'tar*', he asserted¹, had nothing to do with ships, 'ships' being a Sussex dialect word for sheep. The instruction to the shearers was to cut as close to the skin as possible to maximise the fleece yield; inevitably the skin could be nicked, at which point the cry would sound, "tar boy," when a boy would come to smear some tar on the sheep's skin to prevent infection by parasites.

There is a long established interrelationship between sheep and the ecology of the Downs. Grazing on the High Weald controls vegetation, and when the sheep are folded into the grain producing areas of the coastal strip, their natural deposits enrich the soil allowing for greater yields of grain. The importance of such arrangements can only grow as we become ever more aware of the fragility of our relationships with nature. But Ian warned how that relationship could be abused, giving the example of the practice at the end of the nineteenth century of shepherds trapping migratory wheatears, then much prized on the menus of restaurants, so doubling or more the wages of a shepherd over the six-week period when they were caught.

The shepherds' year ends with sheep fairs, an opportunity to replenish stock, hire new shepherds and celebrate with the wider community. This tradition continues here and there, Ian recommending visiting Nepcote Green, Findon on Saturday 9 September and Saddlescombe Farm, Poynings on the following day.

The talk was enthusiastically received by 39 WSAS members and their guests, who benefitted from its revelations of an essential element in the topography of our county.

Philip Robinson

¹ This explanation is supported in Brewer's Concise Dictionary of Phrase & Fable and The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

Victoria County History – the Sussex sections

Every WSAS member is aware of the Victoria County History (VCH), and some are regular users of it. Indeed one of our own members, Dr Tim Hudson, edited four of the Sussex volumes, and contributed to others.

The first “Red Book” volume was published in 1900. In the following 122 years more than 240 main volumes for almost all English counties have been produced, and others are in progress. It must surely be not just the most ambitious English history project, but also one of the most authoritative.

Coverage - and gaps

The Sussex sections are organised by the six rapes (as they were redefined in the 13th century). But, like many counties, coverage remains incomplete. By contrast work is already under way to produce updated versions of the completed Hampshire volumes. Table 1 shows the eleven published Sussex sections, all of which can be viewed in the Record Office library. The texts are available via the British History Online website, except for that of the most recent volume, V part 2; however the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) of the University of London now has funding in place to digitise that volume, which we can therefore expect to see on-line within the next three or four years.

Table 1 – The Sussex sections, published and planned

volume	year of	coverage (by rape)	county	comment
I	1905	county history	Sx	
II	1907	county history, cathedral	Sx	thematic
III	1935	Romano-British, Chichester	Sx	
IV	1953	Chichester (outside the city)	WSx	
V part 1	1997	Arundel – south-west	WSx	
V part 2	2009	Arundel – south-east	WSx	
V other		Arundel -	WSx	none in prospect
VI part 1	1980	Bramber - south	WSx	
VI part 2	1986	Bramber – north-west	WSx	
VI part 3	1987	Bramber – north-east	WSx	
VII	1940	Lewes	ESx,	
VIII	-	Pevensey -	ESx,	none in prospect
IX	1937	Hastings	ESx	

In the Lewes volume are numerous West Sussex places, including some that were transferred in the 1974 local government reorganisation or which have become relatively far more populous and prominent since 1940 – Burgess Hill, Crawley and Haywards Heath, for example. Only volume IX contains no part of West Sussex.

But there remain extensive and important parts of our county yet to be covered. In fact there is no work under way on those areas, and that is because there is no funding. Table 2 identifies some of the areas in question. At least two more volumes will be required to complete the Arundel section; and, even when the Pevensey area is begun, its northernmost West Sussex part might not be the first to be published.

Table 2 – Examples of West Sussex areas yet to be covered by VCH

vol number	rape	examples of West Sussex areas included
V	Arundel	Billingshurst, Fittleworth, Petworth, Pulborough, Storrington
VIII	Pevensey	East Grinstead

The VCH's unique value

Every volume is the product of a painstaking scholarly effort. A citation of the VCH can be regarded as copper bottomed. The contributing researchers have trawled sources that many of us would find difficult to locate, or even difficult to read. The extensive references appended to every parish article are always extensive and often recondite. For secondary researchers of places, families and social and economic history the texts save us enormous amounts of time.

Elusive subjects, such as the various obsolete spellings of place names, past parish boundaries, church furnishings, histories of land ownership and farms (many of whose names stay remarkably unchanged over the centuries), and longitudinal accounts of less prominent local families, can be explored. In the most recent volumes even some individuals still alive are referenced.

Changing style

So much more historical material is available now than was the case in 1900, partly thanks to the growth of county archives. Together with later editorial policies of broadening the subject matter, more recent editions consequently contain more information. The single volume covering Lewes rape was considered sufficient in 1940, but by the end of the last century at least four were being planned for the similarly sized Arundel rape. In 1984 an index was published for the Sussex volumes, since when they have incorporated indexes.

Starting in 2013 the IHR has been producing "VCH Shorts", paperback books covering single parish or town histories. Unfortunately no West Sussex area has yet benefited from this useful approach, although Parham House was the subject of a paperback in its short lived "England's Past for Everyone" series.

Funding

New volumes are created by a combination of solid funding commitments with paid researchers and writers, often with volunteer effort too. In the past county councils, including our own, have been the main funders of volumes of their counties, as for example with the first Arundel part. The second Arundel part was funded partly thanks to magnanimous American benefactors whose families were descended from the area. It looks as though our wait for this key resource for West Sussex history to be completed could be a long one.

With thanks for factual material from Dr Adam Chapman (Institute of Historical Research) and Dr Tim Hudson. All opinions and implications in this article are my own.

Kim Fleming

Richard Howell – new chairman for the Society



I am Sussex born and bred, having lived in Worthing most of my life. From a very young age I have always been interested in history. As a child I was taken round countless National Trust properties with my parents, from which developed an interest in old buildings. However this was never more than just an interest, until around 2001 a friend asked me to help him set up his architectural practice. His speciality was conservation projects, usually involving listed buildings, and amongst my tasks was to visit the local archives to research the historic background of these buildings. This was my introduction to the world of archival research. Moreover I began to realise that the construction of a building was telling a story, which led me to undertake a two-year course on Vernacular Architecture at Rewley House in Oxford, the adult education centre of the University. I followed this up with a B.A. in Landscape Studies at the University of Sussex, my final dissertation being on the history of the chalk and lime industry of the Arun Valley.

I joined WSAS in 2011 and was 'persuaded' to join the committee soon after by Richard Mant. Since then I have served as Minutes Secretary for a number of years. I returned to my studies again in 2018, undertaking an M.A. course on The English Country House with the University of Buckingham. For my dissertation I was able to combine another interest, Rudyard Kipling, by writing about his time at his house, Bateman's, near Burwash. This led me to join the Kipling Society, which I serve as a member of its Council.

In my spare time you may see me treading the boards of the Windmill Theatre at Littlehampton, performing in various musicals ranging from Gilbert & Sullivan to "Godspell", whilst during the summer months I may be spotted in a deckchair at Hove or Arundel, watching Sussex at cricket, whose fortunes I have followed since the age of ten.

This year being the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of WSAS, I am very much looking forward to my time as Chairman to lead it into its next half century.

Richard Howell

Forthcoming events at the Record Office

Tuesday talks

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

- 25 April 2023: **Building-by-the-sea - an architectural history of the West Sussex seaside** by Dr Kathryn Ferry
- 26 September 2023: **The Victorian and Edwardian leisure estate in the Sussex Weald c.1850 -1914** by Dr Sue Berry
- 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 April, September 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.

- 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 ***SOLD OUT***

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.

WSAS Events

The following three events are all now ready for booking. Please use the booking forms for them on the page opposite.

Kipling, Coppers and Cluedo - a walk around Rottingdean led by Richard Howell

Saturday 20 May 2023 at 2.00pm for 2.30pm.

Meeting point: outside The White Horse, Rottingdean on the A259 coast road (pay and display parking on both sides of the road).

A gentle walk around Rottingdean looking at Rudyard Kipling's connections to the village. Also hear about the Copper family of Rottingdean, who helped preserve many of the traditional English folk songs, and see the building that inspired the game of Cluedo!

Members £5; non members £7.

Midhurst, an architectural walk

Saturday 17 June 2023, starting promptly at 2.00pm.

Meeting point: outside the entrance of The Grange Community and Leisure Centre GU29 9HD, off the south side of Bepton Road in Midhurst. Plenty of parking space is available there.

Dr Tim Hudson will conduct a walk around Midhurst, interpreting a selected range of buildings of architectural and historic interest. Dr Hudson is an architectural historian. He was editor of the Victoria County History of Sussex, and the joint author of the 2019 West Sussex edition of The Buildings of England ("Pevsner"). He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

After the walk those attending might wish to have tea together in a local café (not included in the charge).

Members £4; non members £6.

Lancing College Chapel – the largest school chapel in the world

Saturday 29 July 2023, starting promptly at 2.00pm

Meeting point: at the west entrance of Lancing College Chapel, opposite Reception

Dr Janet Pennington will lead a visit to the remarkable chapel at Lancing College. Quoting from the extensive College archives, Dr Pennington will convey a deeper understanding of the origins and history of both the College and its landmark chapel. A former Archivist of Lancing College Dr Pennington is a distinguished and much published local historian.

The entrance to Lancing College is off the Coombes Road from the A27, Lancing BN15 0RW. Parking is at the signed College carpark, north of the chapel; there are disabled parking spaces outside the chapel. Please arrive there by 1.45 pm to allow time to walk up to the meeting point.

Refreshments: After the walk those attending might wish to have tea together in the Hummingbird Café at nearby Shoreham Airport (not included in the charge).

Members: £8; non members £10.

Booking forms for WSAS events

Please return your booking forms to: WSAS, % West Sussex Record Office,
County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RN.

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

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Names of members attending _____

Tel No or e-mail address _____

Names of non members attending _____

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Halnaker windmill, 1740s

Historic England Listed Building Grade II

source: Wikimedia Commons