

The Researcher



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

County Archivist's report

In May we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla with a wonderful display at the Record Office and a joint call out with Screen Archive South East for people to send us photographs, films and records of their events and experiences. We combined this with a webinar looking back at how coronations were celebrated in West Sussex in the past; it is now available on our YouTube channel ([West Sussex Unwrapped LIVE: A County Celebrates](#)).

This month a new display marks the 75th anniversary of the NHS with photographs and records illustrating its history in West Sussex, so do come in and take a look if you can. July has also seen the retirement of Susie Duffin, one of our longstanding Searchroom Assistants, who will be much missed by researchers and staff alike. Susie is a former midwife and wrote a fascinating blog for us on the 70th anniversary of the NHS in 2018 ([The NHS at 70](#)). Last month we welcomed a new member of staff, Vicky Evans, who takes over from Abigail Hartley as our new Searchroom Archivist. She will be introducing herself to you all in the next Researcher, but do say hello when you are in the Record Office.

In May a further series of Sussex archives were launched on Ancestry. In 2022 the parish registers and electoral registers for East and West Sussex went online and have now had over 10 million views. This year the wills and probate records dating from 1521-1858 have been added with some 155,661 records for West Sussex, including over 12,000 probate inventories detailing the contents of houses, farms, pubs, trades and businesses across the county. These are now free to access on Ancestry at both record offices and at libraries throughout Sussex. This will open up access to our records to people throughout the world, which is wonderful, but we also know that we hold a myriad of

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

29 July

Lancing College chapel - **BOOK NOW**

23 September

Tangmere Military Aviation Museum visit - **BOOK NOW**

7 October

The miracle flower - from Flanders to the Tower - **BOOK NOW**

25 November

Open Day at WSRO - **STAND BY**

**July 2023
ISSUE 122**

other sources for family historians to explore; promoting these is an equally important part of our work.

If you are a member of the Sussex Record Society you will already have received your copy of the latest publication, *Sussex Clergy Wills 1635-1714*, edited by Helen Whittle. Helen is a dedicated member of the WSAS committee, as well as the editor of the WSAS Journal. Many congratulations are due for all her work in producing this impressive volume, which contains abstracts of the wills of some 302 clergy in Sussex from immediately prior to the Civil Wars of 1641-1646, through the Interregnum of Oliver Cromwell, up to the resettlement of the Church of England after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. The wills are those of clergy who died between 1635 and 1714 and that are known to have served the county between 1635 and 1665.

The last week in May saw the celebration of National Volunteers Week. Nick Corbo-Stewart, our Volunteer Co-ordinator and Archivist, marked the occasion with a blog describing the wonderful work that our volunteers have been doing. They all make a huge contribution to the Record Office, their work in cataloguing and indexing serving to make many more collections available to researchers. I am hugely grateful to them all for their dedication and hard work and it is always a pleasure to see them in the Searchroom ([National Volunteers' Week 2023: Volunteers at West Sussex Record Office](#)).

At the AGM I was able to share the breaking news of our successful purchase of the archives of the Great House Estate in West Hoathly and the manor of West Hoathly Rectory dating from 1453-1964. Jenny Mason has written a more detailed article on these fascinating documents in this issue, but I would just like to reiterate my gratitude to you all in helping us to acquire this archive and make it available for researchers in West Sussex. Once again WSAS, together with the Sussex Family History Group, provided the essential match funding that enabled us to apply for grants from the Friends of the National Libraries and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund to meet the asking price.

I am sure that by now many of you will have heard the very sad news about the death on 17 May of Alan Readman, Vice President of WSAS and former County Archivist. His funeral was held at Felpham Methodist Church on 21 June. Over the last six weeks I have received so many tributes and memories, all providing testimony to how much he was loved and respected by so many people. I am collating all of these to send to his family, and we will be featuring a tribute to him in the next edition of the Researcher. His legacy will live on in the huge contribution that he made to the Record Office and the history of West Sussex.

Wendy Walker

Acquisition of the West Hoathly archive

This March saw a very exciting addition to the archives at WSRO as we successfully purchased title deeds and associated papers relating to the Great House Estate in West Hoathly and the manor of West Hoathly Rectory. Spanning 1453 to 1964 this is a remarkably complete collection comprising several hundred documents.

When the archive came up for sale through an auction house in Lewes, we approached WSAS to see if they would be able to provide us with match funding to enable us to apply for grants from the Friends of the National Libraries and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund. WSAS, and the Sussex Family History Group, generously provided us with this match funding. In March we reached the total we needed to purchase the archive, and by the end of the month the archive had been collected and was safely housed in WSRO's strongrooms.

It is rare that the entire archive of a small Wealden estate, with an unbroken title from 1524, appears on the market, which makes this a particularly significant acquisition. The collection includes title deeds and manorial records, 1453-1916, title deeds of The Strakes, 1801-1925 (with information about the descent of the property from 1732), the court book of the manor of West Hoathly Rectory, a book of reference to a survey of the parish of West Hoathly by John and Henry Chilcott of Cuckfield in 1839, assessments for parish poor rate and Land Tax, 1743-1748, and estate and personal papers and correspondence of the King and Ridley families, 1794-1964. The documents provide a full account of the history of the manor and its changing ownership over the centuries.

A Rate and Assessment made on the 25th Day of June 1743 by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of West Hoathly in the County of Sussex and with the Consent of two Justices of Peace in and for the said County of Sussex one whereof is of the County dwelling in or near the parish or parishes where the said parish doth lye whose Names are hereunto set to have Money for the better Employment and necessary Relief of the Poor of that Parish raised after the Rate of 2.5 in the Pound - half Pence

Street	Rate	Assessment
Great House Land & Coppice John Cope & James Cope	X	25
John Brown for his House	X	7
Carl Hunt and garden Steeds Stephen Serapian	X	7 10
John Hunt for his House	X	1
James for his House Land	X	1 10
Richard Steeds for his House and pondant	X	2 15
John Gidson for his House	X	2
John Woodcock for his House	X	1
Nathaniel Brown for his House	X	10
James Thors for his House	X	10
John Flower for his House	X	10
Joseph Comber for his House John Clives Empty	X	15
John Ambridge for his House	X	10
Richard Thors for his House	X	2 10
Henry Chace for his House	X	10
John Clives for his House	X	10
The House belonging to Abraham Nichol	X	10
Total		30 8 9 6 14

Col name	Rate	Assessment
Smeech John Brown	X	5
Ambridge John Hunt Younger	X	13 10
Hoakland Thomas Brown	X	3 10
Ambridge and Hugh Davy	X	8
Ambridge George Bacler	X	1 10
Ambridge Thomas Brown	X	5
Hoakland William Bacler	X	23
Nichols Mr Thomas Comber	X	1
Brook house In name	X	1
Barnard John Chace	X	10

West Hoathly Poor Rate Assessment, 25 June 1743

Barradois.
By His Excellency Robert Southey Esq; His Majesty's Captain General and Governour in Chief of this and other the Barbadoes Islands to the Windward of Guadeloupe &c

Will When these Presents shall come Printing Know Ye That On the Day of the Detachment of John Dennis Esq; Deputy Secretary of this Island Personally appeared before me Sir John Outhwaite the King's Advocate at Wilmington God, That the said Esquire lawfully doth acknowledge and deny a Copy of the Last Will and Testament of Anna Hooper of the Parish of George in the Island of Barbadoes which said the said Anna Hooper Esq; deceased bearing Date the 10th Day of July One Thousand seven hundred and sevene At which a Copy of the said Testament by me Granted unto the said Esquire John Dennis Esq; being appointed in the said Will bearing Date the 10th Day of February last past) and Stone and Lead Copys and Waxes by law the Government directed to be made and one hath Remained with the Original Records thereof Remaining in the Secretary's Office of this Island.

At Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set My hand and Signed My self Robert Southey Esq; Governour of this and other the Barbadoes Islands to the Windward of Guadeloupe &c this 10th Day of May One Thousand seven hundred and sixteen.

By His Excellency Command.
John Outhwaite Esq; Barradois
Robt Southey

Exemplification of the will of Anna Hooper, 2 July 1707

The records in this collection represent an invaluable source for local and house historians, genealogists, social historians, and others. Documents such as the West Hoathly Rectory manor court book, July 1700-July 1923, are an important record of local residents and property transactions over the course of two centuries, whilst those relating to West Hoathly school and the recreation ground record important local changes. The estate and personal papers and correspondence of the King and Ridley families provide an insight into both the management of the estate and the lives of the owners of the estate.

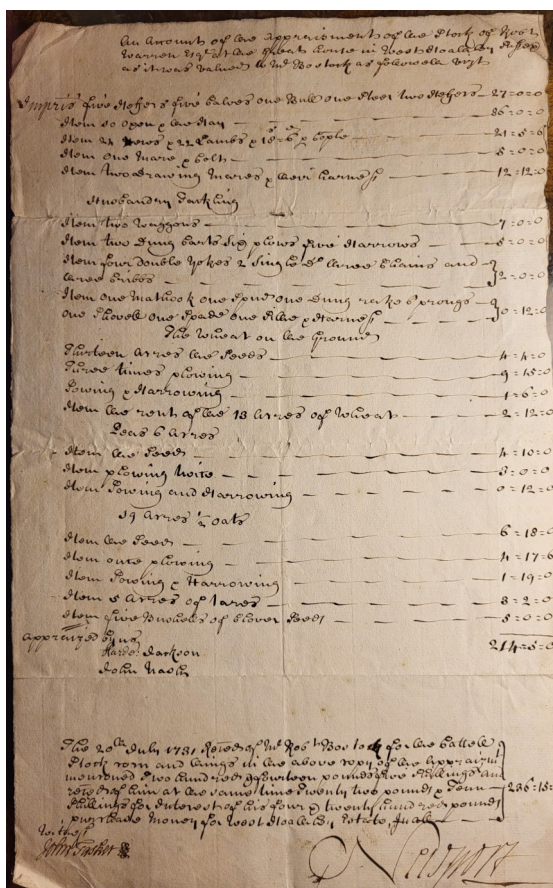
This archive is further enhanced by the presence of documents produced as a consequence of its ownership by Anna Hooper, formerly Tidcombe, the wife of Robert Hooper, the attorney-general of Barbados, on whose behalf the estate was administered by local agents between 1694 and 1716. Between 1716 and 1721 their dealings were examined in a Chancery, which sheds welcome light on the estate during that period, as well as on transatlantic communications, particularly relevant in the light of WSRO's recent Transatlantic Ties project.

Aside from a small quantity of documents at WSRO and the British Library there is nothing else in the public domain about the estate, which makes the acquisition of this collection particularly significant. It means that it will soon be accessible to researchers for the first time. We are hoping to be able to start cataloguing this collection later this year.

The West Hoathly archive is such an important addition to the collections at WSRO and its acquisition would not have been possible without the generosity of WSAS – thank you very much indeed to all members.

Jenny Mason

Valuation of the live and dead stock of Robert Warren Esquire at the Great House, West Hoathly, 20 July 1731



Chairman's report

When I took over the role of Chairman at the AGM in March it was hard to believe that this was our first 'normal' AGM for four years, when the event was held at Boxgrove back in 2019. In 2020 we had to cancel almost at the last minute because of 'lockdown'. In 2021, because of the uncertainties still prevalent, the AGM was held via Zoom, and in 2022 we had insufficient numbers attending to form a quorum due to several members (including myself) testing positive for Covid. WSAS owes our outgoing Chairman, Philip Robinson, an enormous debt of gratitude for steering the Society through an extraordinarily difficult period brought about by the pandemic; at last we appear to have come out the other side.

What a pleasure it was that this year's AGM went ahead exactly as planned, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our two new members of the Committee, Carol Brinson and Mike Kipling. Jane Mant and her band of helpers provided an excellent lunch, and we were treated to a superb talk by Ian Everest on 'The Shepherds of the South Downs.' At last it seems that everything has returned to 'normal'.

But has it? The last few years have seen a slow but steady decline in membership. In many respects this is not surprising. Some of our members have sadly passed away, whilst others, for whatever reason, have not renewed their membership. During 2020 a number of events had to be cancelled because of 'lockdowns' and social distancing, whilst few events were planned for 2021 for much the same reasons. It was only during 2022 that any sense of normality began to return, but in many cases there seemed to be a reluctance to venture out.

Hopefully that's all behind us now, but the stronger the Society is, the more it can assist the Record Office to purchase documents that may otherwise go elsewhere. With this in mind, we will shortly be sending out a questionnaire to a random selection of members asking them their views on WSAS (see below). If you receive the questionnaire, please do complete and return it. As a committee we need to know that we are providing the right package for our current and potential future members.

As expressed by Wendy Walker on page 2, we were all saddened to learn of the recent death of our Society's Vice President, Alan Readman. Alan had been a long serving member of the Record Office staff and had been our County Archivist before his retirement. He had always been very supportive of WSAS and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends, and also by the Society.

Richard Howell

Members' survey

Your committee's survey of the views of a sample of members is planned for the autumn. It is likely to be sent by post in order to ensure that those of us who do not use e-mail are included in the sample. The analysis of results will take some time, but we will report the findings in a future issue of this newsletter.

Steyping County Secondary School

When Steyping County Secondary School opened in 1952 for children in Steyping and surrounding districts who had failed the 11+, reports focused on the provision of a 'flat for housewives' as part of the 'extensive housecraft department.' An embarrassingly unctuous (or so it seems now) television newsclip from the time shows girls practising their housewifely skills by making tea for the headmaster.

A research project underway at Steyping aims to learn from former students of the Secondary School, which combined with Steyping Grammar School to form a comprehensive in 1968. Amongst the first to come forward were two women who had been foundation pupils in 1952: they remembered 'the flat' and the 'extensive housecraft department' and, far from feeling that they had been condescended to, appreciated the up to date facilities to which they were introduced for the first time.

The press headline about 'flat for housewives' added 'Greenhouse for boys'. This summarized one view of what was an appropriate education for children deemed to be less academic in a rural area. But there was never a consensus on what secondary modern schools were for, and the domesticity/rural skills model was not the way the Steyping school developed. By 1967 60% were staying on beyond the statutory leaving age, many taking 'O' levels and a few taking 'A' levels.

Why is it important to hear from ex-secondary modern pupils? Well, as Michael Rosen points out, for much of the 1950s and 1960s they were up to 80% of the nation's secondary school population. Rosen is engaged in a nation-wide research project aiming at finding out from former pupils about their experiences, and how they fared when they left school¹. In Steyping there is an extensive archive relating to the Grammar School from 1614 to 1968, but very little about the County Secondary School, and it seems fitting to try to redress the balance.

Hearing from former pupils about their lives at school and beyond helps to place 'education' (in the sense of what goes on in schools) in the wider social and economic context. The women who had appreciated the school 'flat' with its modern facilities pointed out that many houses in rural areas in the 1950s had no electricity or indoor loo. Some of the boys from the 1960s enjoyed the burgeoning social opportunities for teenagers of the period: far from worrying about any inadequacies of their education, they socialized, enjoyed the many bands playing at the time, and even went to hear Jimi Hendrix for 7/6d at Worthing. They felt that there was a range of jobs on offer, some with good training and prospects, and easy access to further education.

Former students are encouraged to get in touch to bring memories of their school days. On 9 September this year there is to be a meeting at Brotherhood Hall, Steyping (the former Grammar School) where contributors can gather. I hope there will be a publication.

Ruth Brown

Note 1

See for example: <https://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/education/secondary-modern/>

Miscellaneous Court Papers

Maybe you have not yet come across these, described by the Record Office as 'the largest single group of documents in the episcopal records'. They cover the period from 1554 to 1851, and there are estimated to be about 25,000 separate documents, although no-one has so far made an exact count. They are listed in the catalogue only as annual bundles and so their detailed content has remained a mystery to all but the very determined researcher.

Although described as episcopal records, these documents contain references to everyday life in the Archdeaconry of Chichester (more or less equivalent to West Sussex as we know it today). There are many papers to do with different aspects of court proceedings, but also concerning marriages and wills, property and income. Defamation was also popular in early modern times, and records of these cases contain extensive social information. They tell us who lived next door to whom, what inns and victualling houses were in the village or town, the occupations of witnesses and their family relationships - all a goldmine for researchers. They range from medieval scraps to extensive details of articles of enquiry, the questions asked of witnesses in the courts.

The vast majority are handwritten, some by professional scribes, but mostly by individuals within the parishes who could write. Some earlier documents are partially or entirely in Latin, which was the official legal language of the time. Many have suffered the exigencies of time, particularly as they were poorly stored for many years.

To make the information contained in these documents more widely accessible, and to reduce the need for future handling, the Record Office has recently initiated what will be a long term volunteer project to provide a detailed searchable catalogue of every item in this vast collection. The catalogue is not a transcription, but will contain all significant details of each piece, including purpose, names and places.

A condition review of the whole collection has already been undertaken, identifying many items which have deteriorated significantly or been affected by mould over time. Some conservation work to allow the cataloguing project to commence has already been undertaken: more is being carried out as conservation resources permit.

Volunteers with paleographic skills and some knowledge of Latin and ecclesiastical history are cataloguing available items. The broad annual bundling has proved an advantage to the project, as there is no need to work chronologically: items can be added to the catalogue as they become available, an advantage of the digital age, which the original depositors of the archive could never have imagined.

Linda Robertson

Rottingdean – Kipling, Coppers and Cluedo

On Saturday 20 May we visited 'the people of Rōta who lived in the wooded valley'. The walk round Rottingdean was led by Richard Howell, who explained that the name has Saxon origins and that Rōta was probably the leader of a band of Saxon invaders.

Meeting in a breezy spot outside the White Horse Hotel beside the sea, we were pleased to move off up the sheltered and sunny High Street. We paused by a house, formerly St Aubyns prep school, which was attended from 1907-1911 by John Kipling, the son of Rudyard Kipling.

Leaving the busy High Street we turned right and walked past the village green and pond. St Margaret's church is nearby, with windows by the pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones, another resident of Rottingdean and who was married to Kipling's aunt, Georgiana. Richard pointed out two plaques on an outside wall of the church in memory of Burne-Jones and Georgiana, whose ashes are buried here opposite their home across the green.

Walking up Dean Court Road we stopped to admire Tudor Close, a Tudorbethan extravaganza of seven houses erected by the Saltdean Estate Company in the 1920s from the reclaimed timbers of agricultural buildings. It was converted by Charles Neville into a luxury hotel in the 1930s and entertainers regularly put on a murder mystery game for guests, calling it 'Murder at Tudor Close'. The game was so popular that it was later marketed by Waddingtons as Cluedo.

Rottingdean windmill can be seen high on the Downs near the village, and was the inspiration for the original trademark of Heinemann publishers. The logo was designed by another local resident, the painter Sir William Nicholson, who lived at The Grange.

Leaving the church we crossed to the green and gathered outside The Elms, Rudyard Kipling's home from 1897 before he bought Bateman's in 1902. Many of his stories and poems were written at The Elms, including 'Recessional' composed in 1897 for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria and which Richard read for us.

Opposite the green is Prospect House, the former holiday home and studio of Edward Burne-Jones. The artist later acquired adjoining Aubrey Cottage and, from the two, created North End House.

Behind The Elms are the former grounds of the house, now known as Kipling Gardens. The wild grounds were offered for housing development in 1980; the Rottingdean Preservation Society campaigned to raise the money to buy them for the benefit of the public. The gardens were replanted, walls repaired and paths laid, and in 1986 were formally handed over in trust to Brighton Borough Council. Here Richard talked about the Copper family who had lived in Rottingdean since at least 1593. The family was renowned for their traditional folk songs, and from the late nineteenth century onwards they played a significant part in preserving these songs for future generations.

Leigh Lawson

Midhurst – an architectural walk

On 17 June a dozen members and a couple of guests joined Dr Tim Hudson on a walk around the centre of Midhurst. With some Midhurst residents in the group we all benefited from a combination of Tim's deep knowledge of historical buildings and local members' expertise.

The most important lesson that we learned (or relearned) was that one should always be wary of trying to date a building from its façade – and to remain suspicious even if the building bears a date. Our attention was drawn to several such date inscriptions, one or two of which might have been authentic but most were not.

Beginning at The Grange, the town's leisure centre and library, Tim explained that Pevsner authors¹ were free to express justified opinions of the quality of buildings; The Grange was not one that he chose to praise.

But soon we moved into Grange Road where he did favour the former court house (c 1941) designed by county architect Cecil G Stillman and the neo-Georgian former post office (c 1936), both examples of a set of similar public buildings still to be found across the county and beyond. Here were the first of many Cowdray estate houses with their diagnostic mustard yellow window frame and door paint – but only a few in the group knew that an equally rich blue-green paint evident in the town also denoted Cowdray ownership.

Once in West Street, small groups of speeding swifts calling to one another above the rooftops, we were looking at medieval houses fronted and multiply adapted in later styles. One handsome house, its bay window pediment inscribed with "I M S" for John Stent and a date below of 1660, was more likely to be authentically dated, at least in its current presentation.

After some surprise at the rusticated window frames of The Spread Eagle's extension on South Street from around 1700, the group moved to the handsome Edinburgh Square, admiring the Georgian façades of what were again often late medieval structures. Up the narrow St Anne's Hill (both "St Ann" and "St Anne" are used around that spot) to the highest point of the town we came to Midhurst Castle, of which above the surface just a few reconstructed courses of stone survive. Other than that it was established by the Norman Roger of Montgomery, very little is known about the castle.

Market Square, Tim explained, had originally been far larger, with enough space for an important market for the Rother valley area. In the 16th century houses had been built on its west side; some of those were demolished in the 20th century, but without returning any space to the square.

Approaching Knockhundred Row we admired the late Tudor "old library", and sadly had time only to hail the Midhurst Museum. Emerging into North Street we stood in the eerie quiet of the town's main thoroughfare, closed to traffic due to the fire in March of this year that all but destroyed both the Angel Hotel and the building on its north side. In the latter property the fate of a vivid and charming wall painting from around 1600 (illustrating Naboth's vineyard), which had been restored only in 2000, was worryingly unknown.

The whole group felt for the business owners and staff and the wider population of Midhurst suffering substantial economic losses from the closure of the centre, as well as losing one of their prominent listed buildings. It was not clear when or how the severely damaged buildings, now partially demolished and shored up, would be reconstructed.



The handsome “old library”, Midhurst, c1600

We finished our tour at the north end of the town, first outside the former Midhurst Grammar School building, where H G Wells was an assistant teacher in 1883. Earlier in Church Hill we had noted the former chemist’s shop where Wells had been an apprentice. The last stop was the “Big School”, a smart, single-storey neoclassical development of 1821 set well back from the road, now used by the South Downs National Park Authority for its public meetings.

Tim kept the group generously supplied with handouts, including of several old photographs showing long demolished buildings and lost views. The most dramatic contrast was between the small 1960s supermarket in North Street (thought by some the ugliest building in Midhurst) and its predecessor on the site, the high Victorian Public Hall and library (1882). Designed by William Buck of Horsham it could seat 400 people below its steeped clock tower, and had accommodated the town’s cinema for most of its life.

All did well to keep up with the pace on a warm day of high humidity, some taking a welcome drink afterwards in one of the several cafés and restaurants open in the centre. It struck us that much remained to be discovered about the history of many of the houses in this charming town; as they say, more research needed.

Kim Fleming

Notes

1 Williamson, E., Hudson, T., Musson, J. and Nairn, I., 2019. The buildings of England, Sussex: West, Yale University Press

A visit to the Broadwater bakehouse - £400 raised for WSAS

Between 10-18 June Worthing held its first Heritage Festival. This gave members of the public the opportunity to attend a number of special events organised by the Worthing Heritage Alliance. Amongst these were visits to the old bakehouse situated at the back of Leigh and Richard Lawson's cottage in Broadwater which they opened on behalf of WSAS, a member society of the Alliance.

The old village of Broadwater is recorded in the Domesday Book, and for centuries it was one of the most important communities in the area. However, from the late 18th century onwards, with the growing popularity of sea-bathing, the little fishing hamlet of Worthing, situated just over a mile away on the coast, grew rapidly, with the town becoming incorporated in 1803. Broadwater became little more than an agricultural community, and most of the old village virtually disappeared during a road widening scheme in the 1930s. Situated in Broadwater Street East, opposite the Norman church, Leigh and Richard's cottage is a precious survivor from those earlier times.

The cottage dates back to at least the 17th century and Leigh has been able to trace its owners and occupants back to the late 18th century, as she recounts in her recent article in *West Sussex History* (No. 90 October 2022). The 1851 census shows that the property was a grocer's shop and post office in the occupation of a Hannah Collyer. Around 1860 William Manwaring, the then owner, built a bakehouse on to the rear of the property, and it was this that we came to view. No part of the bakehouse is visible from the road, so its very existence would come as a surprise to most people. The original oven remains in-situ and Leigh has assembled an impressive range of equipment, such as peels (the long paddles used for inserting the loaves into the oven), baking tins and a device for putting the crosses on to hot-cross buns! These were all donated by the Knight family who ran the bakery from 1910.



Broadwater bakehouse and exhibition, June 2023

Also on display was a fascinating collection of numerous documents and photographs relating to the property and its former occupants. It seems that the bakehouse closed around 1949, but looking at this wonderful collection suddenly the past seemed to come back to life. Leigh and Richard have very kindly donated the proceeds of £400 from their open days to WSAS. On behalf of those who visited a huge 'thank you' for going to all the time and effort to provide us with this fascinating insight into an aspect of Broadwater's history that would otherwise have been forgotten.

Richard Howell

Past issues of the newsletter – an appeal to members

WSAS's newsletter was established in January 1990, initially in an A5 format, after the now annual Journal and this newsletter had been split into separate serials. In 2010 the WSAS website was created, through which subsequent copies of "The Researcher" have since been accessible.

The WSRO's holding, including in the Society's own archive lodged there, of the newsletter is not quite complete. The reasons for that are unclear: a few issues might never have been produced, or perhaps in those cases the archive copy was lost or never supplied. We really ought to find those that are missing. Do you by any chance have a copy of any of the following three issues which you would allow to be copied for the Record Office and returned to you?

numbers: 66 and 67 (2008/09); and 69 (2010).

If you have any of these, please send a message to contact@wsas.co.uk or write to us % the WSRO.

Thank you.

WSAS Committee

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

Storrington & District Museum Society event

This event will be held at the Storrington & District Museum, Old School Lane, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4LL.

Newhaven Fort, a talk by Ian Everest
7.30pm on Tuesday 1 August 2023

Newhaven Fort is a Palmerston fort built in the 19th century to defend the harbour at Newhaven. It was the largest defence work ever built in Sussex, and is now open as a museum. As the manager of Newhaven Fort from 1987 to 2001, Ian Everest will talk about its military history, and the trials and tribulations of converting this scheduled ancient monument into a popular visitor attraction.

£6 for Museum Society members, £8 for non members. Pay at the door.

Forthcoming events at the Record Office

Open Day

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the West Sussex Archives Society we will be holding a special Open Day on **Saturday 25 November 2023** from 10am to 3.30pm. Further details will be published shortly, but please make a note in your diary!

Tuesday talks

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

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 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.

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](#).

WSAS Events

The following three events are now ready for booking. Please use the booking forms for them on page 15.

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: Afterwards 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.

Visit to Tangmere Military Aviation Museum

Saturday 23 September 2023, meeting at 10.30am

Meeting point: Cockpit Café in the museum, Gamecock Terrace, Tangmere PO20 2ES.

At 11am a talk will be given in the Neville Duke Hall about the history of the airfield. The rest of the day will be spent exploring the museum.

Tangmere Military Aviation Museum is located in a corner of the former Tangmere airfield which was famed as an RAF fighter station from 1918 until Fighter Command left in 1958. Opened by a group of aviation enthusiasts in 1982, it is now home to an impressive display of historic aircraft and a collection of aviation memorabilia. Light refreshments may be purchased in the museum's Cockpit Café.

Members: £12; non members £14.

The Miracle Flower - from Flanders to the Tower: how the poppy became the flower and symbol of remembrance

Saturday 7 October 2023, starting promptly at 2.30pm in Lavant Memorial Hall, Pook Lane, Lavant, PO18 0AH.

Jeremy Prescott will tell the story of the poppy as the symbol of remembrance, from John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders field' to the installation of ceramic poppies at the Tower of London. The speaker served as an army officer for 26 years, seeing operational service in Dhofar (Oman) and four tours of Northern Ireland. Now he gives his talks in aid of Combat Stress, the mental health charity for veterans.

Members: £6; non members: £8.

Booking forms for WSAS events

Please return the booking forms with your payment 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

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

Members £8; non members £10.

Names of members attending _____

Tel no or e-mail address _____

Names of non members attending _____

Tel no or e-mail address _____

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Cowdray Estate houses in Midhurst,
corner of Edinburgh Square and St Anne's Hill, 1878
Designed by Ernest Claude Lee (1845-1890)