

The Researcher

Newsletter of the
West Sussex Archive Society
The Friends of
West Sussex Record Office

AGM Heralds Change

At the recently held AGM, April 10th on a wonderfully sunny day in Littlehampton many changes were proposed. Richard Martin our vice-chairman chaired the meeting as Philip MacDougall sadly could not attend as his mother was unwell. Philip had prepared a report for the AGM and it highlighted important events including the publication of an extra large

geological journal published at the end of 2009 and the substantial help of £1500 donated by WSAS to the 'All our Yesterdays' project managed by Chris Hare. There is also another £1500 promised for next year dependent on progress. Philip's report also explained that he

had decided to step down as chairperson of WSAS due to work pressures and other personal

commitments. He hopes this will give him time to concentrate on being Journal Editor. Everyone in and involved with the Society are extremely grateful for all Philip's efforts in leading WSAS forward.

Caroline Adams was duly elected to the post of chairperson. Sadly the position of secretary remains vacant as there were no nominations for this position. However Caroline was quick to point out that there were some younger members of WSRO staff who might be interested in joining and helping the Society. Richard Martin confirmed that the 2011 AGM will be on the 9th April.



Members enjoy the view from the tower



July 2010

Forthcoming Events

September 2nd - WSAS
Committee Meeting

September 11th - A
guided walk around
Chichester City walls for
members.

October 9th - 'The
Bourne' to be held at
Southbourne Village
Hall.

November 13th - A
workshop by Richard
Childs on Electoral
Records.

December 4th - The
Christmas Symposium

Possible Events 2011

February 12th Halnaker
House presentation - Dr
Andrew Foster

March 26th The other
side of Parish Registers

April 9th AGM



Members begin to arrive



A wonderful view to sea

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Welcome to our re-vitalised newsletter, which we very much hope you will enjoy. For our first issue we just had to have the view of the county archivist, Richard Childs: -

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words for the relaunch of the *WSAS Newsletter*. It is a cliché that we live in challenging times, however as I write, I feel that, notwithstanding the increasing financial difficulties we all face, we have achieved a lot in recent months.

I hope that visitors to the Record Office will like the new reception area, with its refurbished tea room and the new toilets. I certainly think the old area was looking rather tired and shabby after 20 years wear and tear. We are also making progress at the front of the building in our ongoing battle with the wood pigeons.

We are always keen to receive feedback from our customers and to this extent last November we established a Record Office Users' Forum. We've already had two meetings of the Forum (on which WSAS is represented) and already we have received many helpful comments on how we can improve our services.

In difficult financial times we have to look towards external funding for service developments. We have received grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund for two projects: *Joining up Our Heritage* and *All Our Yesterdays*. Both of these projects have received additional funds from WSAS, for which I am very grateful. Both projects will improve access to our collections, which of course is one of the key purposes of the Record Office.

Richard Childs
County Archivist

Our New Chairperson

Caroline Adams is Senior Archivist at West Sussex Record Office, where she has particular charge for the Parham archives, non-conformist records, the Record Office library, the Tony Wales collection and various outreach activities. She has worked there for sixteen years now, having previously worked for West Yorkshire Archive Service, Humberside Record Office, BP and the Mercers' Company in London. Professional qualifications include a BA Hons in History from the University of York, the Diploma in Archive Administration (as it was then) from the University of Liverpool, and an MA in Landscape History from the University of Leeds. She is currently researching for a PhD in 16th century local history (hence last March's workshop). She is a registered member of the Archives and Records Management Association.

Caroline's work at West Sussex Record Office has included involvement with *The Fishbourne Book* and other community projects, producing a number of publications including the Local History Mini-Guides series (to local places and topics), the Family History handbook *Who Are You*, and hopefully its sister publication, *Where Do You Live* this year. Jayne Kirk, who produced the VCH book on Parham last year, became a good friend, and both of them carried out research for the book on houses in Somerset, Derbyshire and Wiltshire and Surrey. Caroline also headed up three annual stalls at the 'Who Do You Think You Are Live' show at Olympia in London, as well as a number of stalls at local family history fairs and society conferences.



Caroline Adams

Caroline was born and grew up in Horsham, where her mother, a keen WSAS member, still lives. Caroline has one son, Owen, who is studying maths at the University of Kent. She has absolutely no outside interests at present (except chocolate) because every spare moment is spent on the PhD.

In May 2010, the Record Office lost two good friends to cancer: Viv Hodnett who had been on the staff for many years, and was returning as a volunteer, and Madge Boyd, who was one of the cleaners. Alison McCann has written about Viv, and Sue Millard about Madge.

Viv Hodnett

Viv worked at the Record Office for 23 years, as the researcher who undertook the paid research for the public. This was in fact a return to the Record Office, as she had worked here briefly in the late 1960s, before she and her husband went abroad.

Her research work was always meticulous, and she built up good relationships with many of her customers who gave her repeated commissions. As a colleague, she was great fun, very forthright, and very amusing, and always ready to help out.



Viv was very family oriented, and her husband Des, her children, and eventually her grandchildren were her prime concern. In her spare time she also did charitable work for the Lions, and for the Stroke Club. Viv left the Record Office in 2007, but returned as a volunteer, helping Caroline with the compilation of *Where Do You Live*, the book on how to research the history of a property.

Madge Boyd

Madge worked at keeping the Record Office spotless for nearly 20 years, joining the staff at the time the Record Office moved from Edes House to Orchard Street. She also spent some time helping to clean various documents with a soft brush and a Hoover!



Madge was born in Liverpool but settled happily into life in West Sussex and loved living in her Parklands bungalow, just around the corner from the Record Office. In the WSRO 60th Anniversary leaflet she said that she could see the cathedral from her garden and it gave her much pleasure to look at it every morning from her conservatory. She never forgot her Liverpool roots however and remained a staunch supporter of Liverpool Football Club (even though her husband Dave supported Everton!).

As well as Dave, she also leaves a son and a daughter and three grandchildren, of whom she was very proud. She loved chatting about them as well as many other subjects in the Tea Room. She had a bright friendly personality and is sadly missed by all her colleagues.

**Unusual find in the
Henfield Parish
Register(Par
100/1/1/1)**

While checking the parish register of Henfield, I found these lovely images, which I immediately related to. Who hasn't filled a page with little pictures?

One day in 1675 John Allen was either bored or wanted to practice with a new pen, and he left us this page of doodlings. But who was he, to have access to the registers, and to have been literate enough to have created this? A little bit of research can tell us. The vicar of Henfield at this time was Richard Allen, and by going through the baptism register I found in 1658, the baptism of John Allen his son. This was his second son to have been christened John, the first dying as a baby. The son of the vicar (who held more than one living) would certainly have been taught to read and write.

Unfortunately we can only guess at the reaction of his father!

This incredible survival helps bring the past to life, as something as small as a doodle is something that we can all relate to.

Do you have an old photo that needs identifying, discovered a fascinating story about your family or just have a tale that you'd like to tell? Please send them in, to share with the other members.



All Our Yesterdays Project

The All Our Yesterdays Project is lottery funded but this has been supplemented with additional funding from WSAS to help with the transcription of oral history (interviews) tapes held at West Sussex Record Office. At present several hundred invaluable oral history recordings are held at WSRO but indexing and thus referencing them until now has been difficult. This has meant an absolute treasure trove of information has been under utilised by local and family historians alike. This is perhaps best illustrated by using some extracts of the newly transcribed oral histories. Here we have Terry Noice born 26th September 1920 talking about experiences with doctors and dentists when she was a child (not for the squeamish): -

Q. What about your health? Do you remember anything about health provision when you were young? Doctors or childhood illnesses?

Oh I had all the illnesses going as children, we did. Measles, chicken-pox all that sort of thing.

Q. Do you remember the doctor being called out?

Yes I think mother did call him out. She called him out to me once, because I remember he said 'That girl hasn't got enough pat inside her'.

Q. And dentists?

I don't know. I think the first one I had out was at the clinic. I had the tonsils out and that was quite an effort. That was, because they couldn't find the chloroform to put me out, so they had to give me gas, and I felt one tonsil coming out because they said 'Quick, she's coming round, just got time to do it' and they cut this right out, and I felt it. Of course I bled a lot afterwards. And we were all laying on stretchers in the clinic. And of course I kept coughing and I couldn't sleep because I kept bleeding. And they said 'You naughty girl, go to sleep, you're keeping all the others awake'. Nasty.

Q. That's terrible. That must have really hurt?

It did. I've always suffered on that side, funnily enough. Even now when I get a cold it hurts that side.

I am sure our sympathies would go out to Terry for suffering this experience and hardly surprising it had remained so vivid in her memory. The project itself is spread over two years and thus far 32 interviews have been transcribed at a cost of £1200. The project already had £2000 in the budget for transcription of these interviews and in year one WSAS made a contribution of £1500 to provide a total of £3,500. From this we can see that just over a third of the available money has been spent. We can reasonably assume that the WSAS contribution will cover about 35+ transcriptions. The entire budget should therefore cover between 90 and 100 transcriptions. If WSAS is able to make the second tranche payment next year, then we will be looking at 125+ transcriptions completed. There are some 450 tapes in the WSRO collection, of which about 120 are the early, pre 1975 recordings (which include the Tony Wales interviews from the 50s and 60s).

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to "The Researcher" our new look newsletter for the members of the West Sussex Archive Society. New format and increased frequency of publication to ensure that you are kept well abreast of the activities at the West Sussex Record Office and events within the society or organised by the society. I hope you like our stylised rose on the front page. This was originally hand drawn almost 400 years ago and appears on a Mitford Estate Map dated 1629. As a general direction we wish to move our communication with you in an electronic direction, though current communications will not be abandoned if that is what you prefer. In reality electronic communication is almost the norm for today, but you would hardly realise it with all that marketing rubbish, so unwelcome, that still lands on the doormat. We see considerable advantage to e-mail communication, firstly it enables faster distribution of the newsletter and savings in cost, thus making even more money available to Record Office projects. Secondly it offers very speedy opportunities for us to communicate with you if for example an event has to be cancelled or a new event has become available and thirdly and probably most importantly it offers to you a very simple mechanism to communicate your thoughts and questions directly to the WSAS committee. Many of you have already supplied an e-mail address to us but I wonder if I may entreat those of you who have not but who have computers or easy e-mail access to send us your e-mail address. Clearly the simplest way to do this would be to send us an e-mail entitled WSAS Communication to barrie.keech@btinternet.com and then we can capture your e-mail address directly from the e-mail you have sent.

Inventories Project - help always welcome

" The WSAS project for transcription of West Sussex Probate Inventories is up and running once more. Daphne and Brian Norton have taken on the task of co-ordinating this project from Norma Weir. If anyone out there is willing to transcribe the Inventories whether it be your particular area or just doing them for the fun of it please let us know. Tel. No. 01903 892316 or by e mail daphne.norton@tesco.net"

Accidental Deaths from the Burial Registers of Horsham

21.05.1582

John ROWE alia SPARROWE killed with the fall of a may pole as it was a setting up.

19.08.1615

Elizabeth STROODE a maid that was killed with thunder & lightening when the steeple was fired, she was standing under the belfry door.

7.8.1626

Thomas HOLLIDAYE a batchelor, killed by a fall in the building of a house

23.4.1632

Phillip WOODMAN a poor householder, killed with a fall from a horse.

And we are left to ponder that Joane Nash was far from being 'unknown'

12.11.1638 Joane NASH Widow. **Buried in the night**, unknown to the Minister or the Clerk.

Society Events Review

Tudor Records Event

And the Progress of Queen Elizabeth I through Sussex 1591

On Saturday March 27th the Society together with West Sussex Record Office held an event entitled Tudor Records. I think amongst the early morning coffee drinkers there was something of an air of expectation without quite being able to define what. The workshop was led by Caroline Adams and focused strongly upon the progress of Elizabeth I through Sussex. 'Every Spring and Summer of her forty-four years as queen, Elizabeth insisted that her court go "on progress", a series of royal visits to towns and aristocratic houses, in southern England. These trips provided the only direct contact most people had with a monarch who made popularity a cornerstone of her reign' so says Mary Hill Cole in her book 'The Portable Queen: Elizabeth I and the Politics of Ceremony'. The workshop was highly participative as attendees were asked to plot their own thoughts of the route that Elizabeth and her entourage may have taken. Subsequently there were numerous aids made available and details began to appear. Elizabeth spent almost a week at Cowdray that is clear and spent time in Chichester itself. The workshop concluded with the opportunity to 'touch and feel' some authentic Tudor records. Everyone agreed this had been a splendid workshop and hats off to Caroline for ensuring that a potentially rather dry subject was made entertaining.

Barrie Keech



Attendees contemplate the route of Elizabeth
On her progress through Sussex.



Steining Scandals Walk with Dr Janet Pennington 9th May



How about a pleasant stroll around Steyning on a May afternoon for the joint WSAS/FESRO meeting? Oh well, we can all dream. The only sunny thing about Steyning on this chilly May afternoon was Dr. Janet Pennington's bright red hat. Janet led us on a fascinating walk, stopping along the way to entertain us with her scandalous tales - all well researched and so interesting that we hardly noticed the cold.

The medieval carving of a female 'mouth puller' on Steyning church, and a nineteenth century smuggler's grave; the site of a Protestant burning in 1555, and a cottage which in the 1920's had a 'lurid reputation' were just a few of the places we saw. Janet led us along Church Street and up Dog Lane, walking back to the water-mill, Mouse Lane and the High Street. It seemed that Janet had something interesting to tell us every few yards - quiet and respectable Steyning certainly was not! The afternoon ended with a welcome tea provided by the landlady of the Norfolk Arms.

Leigh Lawson



Remaining Programme for 2010

Saturday 11th September at 11 am. A guided walk around Chichester City walls, for 90 minutes. This would be for WSAS members only, cost £3.50. Meet at the West Door of Chichester Cathedral.

Saturday 9th October 10 am - 4.00 pm. 'The Bourne: a History of the villages immediately to the west of Chichester'. To be held at Southbourne Village Hall, First Avenue, Southbourne with an afternoon walk around Bosham.

Cost £5 for members, £7 for non-members and guests

Saturday 13th November 10 am - 4.00 pm. Workshop led by Richard Childs, County Archivists on Electoral Records" held at the West Sussex Record Office.

Cost £5 for members, £8 for non-members and guests, to include tea and coffee.

Saturday 4th December 10.30 am. Christmas Symposium held at Edes House, Chichester. Come along to this lovely house for our annual get-together with coffee, wine, mince pies and a quiz.

Potential Events and Dates for 2011

Saturday February 12th - Presentation on Halnaker House by Dr Andrew Foster at WSRO

Saturday March 26th - Presentation/Workshop 'Parish Registers the other side' at WSRO.

Saturday April 9th - AGM, venue to be established.