

The Researcher



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

County Archivist's report

I was very pleased to be with you all again at the 52nd AGM and to share some of our activities and highlights over the last year.

Following the series of retirements and staff appointments that I reported on last year, the last twelve months have seen relatively few changes. In June 2025 Louise Conway joined us in the Search Room as an Archives Assistant, bringing all her experience from her time at Screen Archive South East. In November we welcomed Daniella Shuhman as the new Assistant Conservator for the second stage of our Ordinary Voices Revealed Project, funded by the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust. Working alongside Carina Rosas, our Senior Conservator, she will have conserved 65 folders of papers of the Consistory Court of the Archdeaconry of Chichester, 1554 to 1851 (Ep/1/15/1), during her time with us. We also received a separate private donation that has funded additional work on three Court Act books, enabling these records to be used to complete the Sussex Record Society Depositions Project. This achievement means that the SRS will be the first county record society in the country to publish a complete series of these fascinating archives and open up their use to researchers across the world.

The last year saw the completion of the New Jerusalems: New Towns Project, funded by the Wellcome Trust, which has enabled us to catalogue and open up access to the Crawley New Town Archive comprising around 3700 records, including 167 volumes of minutes and board papers, 767 files of administrative papers, 559 photographs and negatives, and some 269 glass plate negatives. The project as a whole has also created standardised, item-level catalogue data for a further ten post-war New Town archives across Britain and Ireland. Working with our partners across the UK and Ireland over 100,000 records were catalogued and preserved providing a real step change in the resources available for the

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

See pages 14 and 15

19 May

Women of Courage

BOOK NOW

6 June

**St John's Chapel
visit**

BOOK NOW

18 July

**Ardingly College
visit**

BOOK NOW

**April 2026
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study of post-war New Towns.

These archives are of interest for a wide variety of research into urban planning, public health, social policy, 20th century history, architecture and urban geography. The records also enable residents and communities to explore their history and their environment as well as providing resources for students, artists, creative professionals and policy practitioners in housing, wellbeing, health and urban design.

In 2025 we received 186 accessions, in both paper and digital formats, with archives dating from the 16th century to the present-day. Our oldest accession was an agreement for a grant for the purchase of a warrant for livery relating to lands in Heyshott and West Dean in 1596 and the most recent being the electoral registers for 2025-2026.

Amongst the many deeds, parish records, maps and plans, diaries, letters, photographs and records of schools, WIs, societies and organisations that we received can be found the archives of the South Downs Campaign dating from 1990 leading up to the establishment of the National Park in 2010; the costume designs and photographs for productions at Chichester Festival Theatre by Paul Farnsworth from the 1980s-2000; and a photograph album of the Chichester Home Guard, 1941-1943, compiled by Leslie Evershed-Martin, the original founder of the theatre.

Earlier records include the Sullington Manorial Court Book, c1687-1805, manorial records from Holmes Campbell dating from 17th -19th centuries, and the Lordington Farm day book, 1825-1848. For the 19th century we also received the minutes of the committee appointed to collect subscriptions for soup for the poor in the parish of Broadwater 1844-1858, together with the records of Littlehampton Cricket Club dating back to c1874. Moving into the 20th century we find memorabilia relating to the Palladium and Regent Cinemas, Littlehampton, c1900-1951, and the records of Worthing Flower Club, c1955-2025. Amongst the school records that we received are the archives of Worthing High School for Boys (formerly Worthing Secondary School for Boys) 1924-1989, a photograph album of Conifers House School, Midhurst, c1934-1957, and West Dean School archives from 1921-c2018.

Thanks to the generosity of WSAS and grants from the Friends of the Nations' Libraries we have also been successful in the sale room over the last year, acquiring two police ledgers for the Borough of Arundel and the West Sussex Constabulary, 1869-1876 and 1920-1932, a Court of Sewers minute book for the Rape of Arundel, 1655-1663, and two collections of legal documents for the Littlehampton and Arundel areas from 17th-19th centuries including papers relating to the Littlehampton Golf Club, Littlehampton Electric Tramway, the Littlehampton Ferry and the River Arun. We were also able to acquire a collection of sale auction particulars for the late 19th and early 20th centuries and a series of Littlehampton and District Cottage Hospital rules, reports and accounts, 1906-1948, all predating the establishment of the NHS.

I am delighted to be able to share with you news of two new acquisitions. Thanks to grants from the Friends of the Nations' Libraries and WSAS we have been successful in purchasing a licence and grant from Henry VIII for lands formerly held by Durford Abbey, 1545, and an album of watercolours of Chichester by Julia Henty c1870 (see pages 9 and 10).

The generosity of WSAS has also extended to the purchase of four laptops for our volunteers to use in the Search Room enabling them to list many more of our archives and make them accessible for people to see and enjoy. During 2025 our volunteers contributed 3233 hours of work for us with an average attendance of 23 people a week. We were also able to offer 11 work experience placements during 2025, totalling a further 126 hours of work.

2026 is the 80th anniversary of the West Sussex Record Office and you will hear much more about this and our plans for the future as the year progresses. 2026 is also the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence, so you can also expect the Sussex Declaration to take centre stage once more with special viewings planned for the summer months.

Finally I would just like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to the Record Office staff and volunteers for all their hard work, to our depositors who entrust us with their archives and to you all for your support. None of this would be possible without you.

Wendy Walker, County Archivist

Chairman's report

WSAS has once again had a very good and positive year. Those of you who attended last year's AGM at Barnham will recall how well attended it was and what an excellent talk we had from Alexandra Harris on her book 'The Rising Down.' In April we had a fascinating talk by Janet Pennington on Sussex Inn Signs at Billingshurst. Then in May we were in Midhurst when former army officer, Jeremy Prescott, gave us a very moving talk on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to tie in with the 80th anniversary of the ending of World War II. In June our committee member Carol Brinson arranged a behind the scenes visit to the Weald & Downland Museum, where we were given a rare opportunity to visit the archives, the library, and the artefacts store where many rare household items from the past are kept. In July we visited Coultershaw near Petworth for a tour of the site and to view its pumping engine in action, followed by a fascinating talk on the site's history and its importance in bringing fresh water to Petworth.

In September we held our conference in Chichester which looked at how the city developed after the Civil War. This was the conference that should have been held in 2021 which we had to cancel due to lockdown, and our thanks to Dr. Andrew Foster, Kim Fleming and Helen Whittle for organising it and all the speakers who took part for providing us with a most interesting day. In October we moved to Gatwick for a tour of the museum, which was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately our November event, which would have been a visit to the old Steyning Grammar School, had to be cancelled at short notice due to the developers who had acquired the site wanting all the archives to be moved out of the building. In December we had our customary Christmas Get-Together at the Record Office with the opportunity to view some of the archives that the Society had helped the Record Office to purchase during the previous twelve months. As usual we had three very interesting five-minute talks from three of our members. Our first event of 2026 was a visit to the Novium Museum in Chichester looking at the history of Shippam's who were once important employers in the city, followed by a walk to see where they had once operated.

So in the last twelve months the Society has held events around the county from Barnham to Billingshurst, Midhurst to Singleton, Coultershaw to Gatwick and Chichester, giving members the opportunity to visit parts of the county they might not otherwise get to visit, but also bringing the Society to those particular regions and to people who might otherwise be unaware of the Society's existence and the work it does. You will be pleased to know that we already have another year of interesting events and activities lined up for our members to enjoy, which will take us to other parts of the county.

I would like to thank everyone on the committee, who between them make the running of the Society possible. Once again Helen Whittle has produced a wonderful journal full of interesting articles, Kim Fleming has kept everyone informed of what is going on through The Researcher, Jane Mant has kept a beady eye on the finances, Leigh Lawson has provided content to keep the website updated, as well as keeping our presence on Facebook and also reminding me when certain things need attention. Sue Millard has attended to the Society's mail which gets sent to the Record Office, and Mike Kipling, Annette Lloyd Thomas and Carol Brinson have always been on hand to provide insight and advice as well as organising several of our events. My thanks to them all.

We were sorry earlier this year when John Godfrey stepped down from the Committee after several years, but we are delighted to welcome former County Archaeologist, John Mills.

Thanks again to Wendy and her team at the Record Office who are always on hand to help and support the Society in so many ways.

Our conference in October will be looking at Sussex writers. I look forward to seeing many of you at that and our other forthcoming events, and on behalf of the Society thank you all for your continued support.

Richard Howell

Hurrah for Shippam's!

On 11 February members of the West Sussex Archives Society (WSAS) gathered at The Novium Museum for a nostalgic journey through the history of one of Chichester's most famous exports, Shippam's Pastes. Despite the persistent February drizzle, the turnout was exceptional, reflecting the deep personal connection many locals still feel for the Shippam's brand. The afternoon began with an introduction by the Novium's Exhibitions and Collections Officer, Rachel Ng, who detailed the project to catalogue and digitise over 1,200 archive items. Funded by a £44,593 'Unlocking Collections' grant from Arts Council England, the exhibition brings to life a 239 year legacy that remains central to the city's identity.

In 1992 the Chichester District Museum acquired the C. Shippam Ltd advertising archive, a vast collection of items dating from the late 19th century to the 1980s. This archive, now preserved at The Novium Museum, provides insights into both the company's innovative marketing techniques and broader social history trends, including evolving lifestyles and food habits. The museum holds an extensive array of artifacts, photographs, and machinery highlighting the factory's impact on life in Chichester.

The collection includes items such as product jars, marketing materials, and staff uniforms that vividly illustrate the company's industrial significance. The "Hurrah for Shippam's!" exhibition officially opened on 12 July 2025, after months of meticulous work by over twenty diligent volunteers who were trained and overseen by Rachel Ng, Project Officer Sally Jones, and Collections Officer Amy Roberts.

A core component of the project involved researching, scanning, and digitising thousands of documents and photographing physical artifacts. I researched pre-television advertising across radio, cinema, and film, and was amazed to learn that in 1937, long before commercial radio was established in the UK, Shippam's produced the 15-minute *Mrs Celebrity* programmes. In these segments the wives of famous bandleaders, musicians, and athletes were interviewed. They were recorded and pressed onto gramophone records in London before being sent by post to Fécamp to be broadcast on Radio Normandy. Although the station's material and equipment were destroyed during the Second World War under German occupation, twelve of the thirteen original scripts survive. They are catalogued as: WSRO Shippams 6/2/2/2 (*Mrs Celebrity Scripts*) and WSRO Shippams 6/2/2/1 (*Material relating to a series of 13 radio programmes from Radio Normandy*).

Beyond radio I discovered that in order to appeal to a wide audience Shippam's produced three cinema commercials in the 1950s set to diverse musical styles: rock & roll, opera, and a military tattoo. All three used a similar animation style featuring singing paste pots, cartoon shrimp, chickens, and anchovies. During this era the BBC was strictly ad-free, and ITV did not launch until 1955, making these cinema spots a primary way to reach the public. A particularly rare find on display was a handwritten score for "Shippam's Rock & Roll" (ref: WSRO Shippams 6/3/15), which demonstrated the company's willingness to embrace modern trends to stay relevant. The Novium also utilized extensive records from the West Sussex Record Office, including company documents (Acc 12019, Shippams 4/9/2), employee letters (Add Ms 1606), and oral histories (OH 295–300) that provided a human face to the industrial giant.

The exhibition featured diverse loans such as rare 1924 miniature paste jar labels from Queen Mary's dolls' house, corporate deeds, and old recipe books. Classic 1950s TV commercials were provided by Screen Archive South East, and a film made especially for the exhibition allowed former employees to share their memories of the "Shippam's family."

Following the museum visit members embarked on a guided walk tracing the family's physical footprint in the city. We began at 37 Westgate, where Charles Shippam I opened his first grocery shop in 1786. We then viewed the former shopfronts of brothers Charles and Cecil on South Street, and passed the grand family residences in North and West Pallant, illustrating the family's rising social status as their products gained national fame.

The tour concluded at the iconic East Walls factory site at 53 East Street. Standing before the famous wishbone and clock, we reflected on why Shippam's endured for nearly two centuries. The exhibition pointed to three key factors: six generations of family continuity, pioneering innovation in production and advertising, and a "family-first" culture that included a Social Club (1927) and an early pension scheme (1939). Although the factory doors closed in 2002, the legacy of the Shippam family remains an indelible part of Chichester's soul.

Volunteer projects at West Sussex Record Office

In The Researcher 129 (April 2025) Nick Corbo-Stewart wrote about the projects completed by WSRO volunteers in 2024/25. Here Nick describes a selection of the volunteers' work achieved over this past year. Some illustrations are on page 16.

Editor

Throughout the past year the WSRO volunteers have continued working on a wide range of historic collections. Here is a selection of those that have been made publicly available.

WSRO holds the extensive archive of the Diocese of Chichester, catalogued as the Episcopal Records (Ep). Amongst these records are inventories listing the goods and chattels of inhabitants of West Sussex who died between 1521 and 1834. Most are from the Archdeaconry of Chichester, but some have survived from the Dean of Chichester's Peculiar Jurisdiction and from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Peculiar Jurisdiction of Pagham and Tarring. There are a small number from the Archdeaconry of Lewes, and a few from the bordering parishes of Hampshire and Surrey. Inventories are an important resource for local and family historians, providing a very personal insight into someone's life. These inventories had previously been listed on paper so were only available to researchers visiting WSRO's Searchroom. In order to open them up to those looking at our online catalogues, a project was started whereby volunteers have created digital listings of the names, occupations and dates of those who appear on our probate inventories. To date 3000 of these records have been added to our catalogues. To see the full listing so far, look under catalogue reference Ep/1/29.

Work on making available the Photographic Heritage Survey (PHS) of West Sussex continues. The original survey was organised by the Record Office to coincide with the European Architectural Heritage Year 1975. The result was the creation of thousands of photographs of the county's architecture, indexed on a paper catalogue. In 2020 a project was undertaken by volunteers to transcribe and convert these paper listings into a digital catalogue. During 2025 over 6000 listed entries have been processed and added to our digital catalogue. This has reinvigorated researcher enthusiasm for this fascinating collection.

The volunteers have carried on listing many deed collections relating to properties, estates and legal cases. One such example is the documents relating to 84 High Street, Shoreham, spanning 1904 to 1937, featuring leases and assignments for the property. More importantly for family researchers, collections of this type reveal the names and occupations of those who have lived in West Sussex, as well as a property history. Take a look at catalogue number AM 1908 for this collection.

One small collection that will be of interest to those in and around the Chichester area, completed by the volunteers, relates to the work of sculptor Derek Rollings during 1978-1979. He was tasked with the replication and replacement of the bust of King Charles I displayed in a niche at the top of the Market Cross, Chichester. This collection comprises photographs, a newspaper report and correspondence detailing the creation of the bust and subsequent replacement. These are available to view under the catalogue number AM 1924.

Additions to the existing Women's Institute (WI) collection catalogues continue. WI branches have a rich history of bringing together communities, campaigning on social issues, and raising money for charitable causes. Volunteers have recently added to or created new catalogues for Middleton-on-Sea, Felpham Evening, Horsham North Heath and Westhampnett branches.

West Sussex is always under continual development. The Record Office records this social history in different ways. One such example is the promotional and administrative papers of the newly developed post-war Grove Park Estate, Chichester. Volunteers have listed sales particulars, photographs and promotional material relating to this post war housing development. See the collection under catalogue number AM 1893.

The explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton has a connection with West Sussex via his daughter Cicely Jane Swinford Shackleton who owned Bardsley Cottage in Watersfield. Volunteers have listed items that relate mainly to this house but also to the Shackleton expeditions to Antarctica in the early part of the 20th century. Dating from 1841 to 2004 this is accessible as catalogue number AM 1938.

Volunteers have listed the records of the Worthing and District Camera Club, founded in 1903. This collection spans the years 1904 to 2005 and includes records relating to the activities of the club and the exhibitions it held, together with the club's minutes, exhibition programmes and catalogues. Photographs and negatives demonstrate the composition skills of its members over the years. This can be accessed via catalogue number AM 1940.

The history of Sussex's fauna and flora is captured in the papers of the Sussex Botanical Recording Society (SBRS). Spanning the years 1961 to 2013 the collection consists of the minutes, correspondence and programmes of the organisation. To see this, go to AM 1944 and also see Add Mss 54936.

Finally, for those with an interest in the earliest days of the postal service in West Sussex, volunteers have listed the research volumes compiled by Alfred Robinson. These detail every Post Office in the county, and include examples of franking, postal envelopes and images of letter boxes, as well as additional research and obituaries of postmen. To see these, go to MP 9029-MP 9050.

In 2025 the volunteers catalogued 87 new accessions, with additional work on existing collections, and have created thousands of records. Their invaluable contribution means that even more West Sussex history is being catalogued and opened to researchers exploring a wide range of topics. It is this work that supports the Record Office in its efforts to provide a varied, vibrant public service to all our visitors and those accessing our services remotely.

Nick Corbo-Stewart, Archivist and Volunteer Co-ordinator, WSRO

Archaeology and Archives

At our 2026 AGM we were delighted to welcome journalist and author, and the current President of the Sussex Archaeological Society, Mike Pitts, as our guest speaker.

The theme of Mike's talk was 'Archaeology and Archives'. Archival research and archaeological investigation often work closely together as Mike explained in his fascinating talk which was based on his recently published *Island at the Edge of the World*. The book relates the story of Easter Island, or Rapa Nui to give it its Polynesian name. Set in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and less than half the size of the Isle of Wight, it is the remotest inhabited island on earth. It was not discovered by Europeans until 1722, when a Dutch explorer, Jacob Roggeveen, came across it whilst on a quest to find a southern continent, and news of the now famous stone heads eventually reached Europe. Because of its remoteness and lack of resources the island was rarely visited by other Europeans until the middle of the 19th century when an expedition arrived to study the island to try to discover its history. This expedition only stayed for two weeks. There would be a few other similar expeditions over the next half century but none stayed for an extended period of time. However in March 1914 a wealthy English couple, Katherine and Scoresby Routledge, set off to Rapa Nui to carry out their own investigations to try to discover the true history of the island and its people.

They would remain on the island for eighteen months, during which time the First World War broke out. Not only did they carry out many excavations, but they also interviewed elderly members of the inhabitants to record their memories of a vanished way of life. During this time they made numerous detailed field notes and drawings of their discoveries, and took many photographs. After eventually arriving back in England, Katherine published their story in *The Mystery of Easter Island* in 1919. Many of their notes and records were deposited with Royal Geographical Society where they would remain, largely forgotten and ignored by scholars over the years and still to be thoroughly researched to this day.

However the story did not end there. It seems the Routledges were not easy people to get on with. When they had set out on their expedition they had taken with them the archaeologist O G S Crawford and the geologist Frederick Lowry-Corry. Both would leave the expedition before their boat had arrived at Easter Island due to disagreements with the Routledges. A few years after their return to England the couple split up and then in 1925 Scoresby had Katherine committed to a mental asylum in Ticehurst, East Sussex, where she died in 1935. Scoresby was to die a few years later in 1939. Other parts of the Routledges' extensive archives were subsequently split up and sold over the years.

This was a fascinating talk that Mike gave us – part archival research, part history, part archaeology, part detective story. It was also a very human story involving the Routledges and their troubled relationship. Our thanks to Mike for coming all the way over from Wiltshire to tell us this remarkable story.

Richard Howell

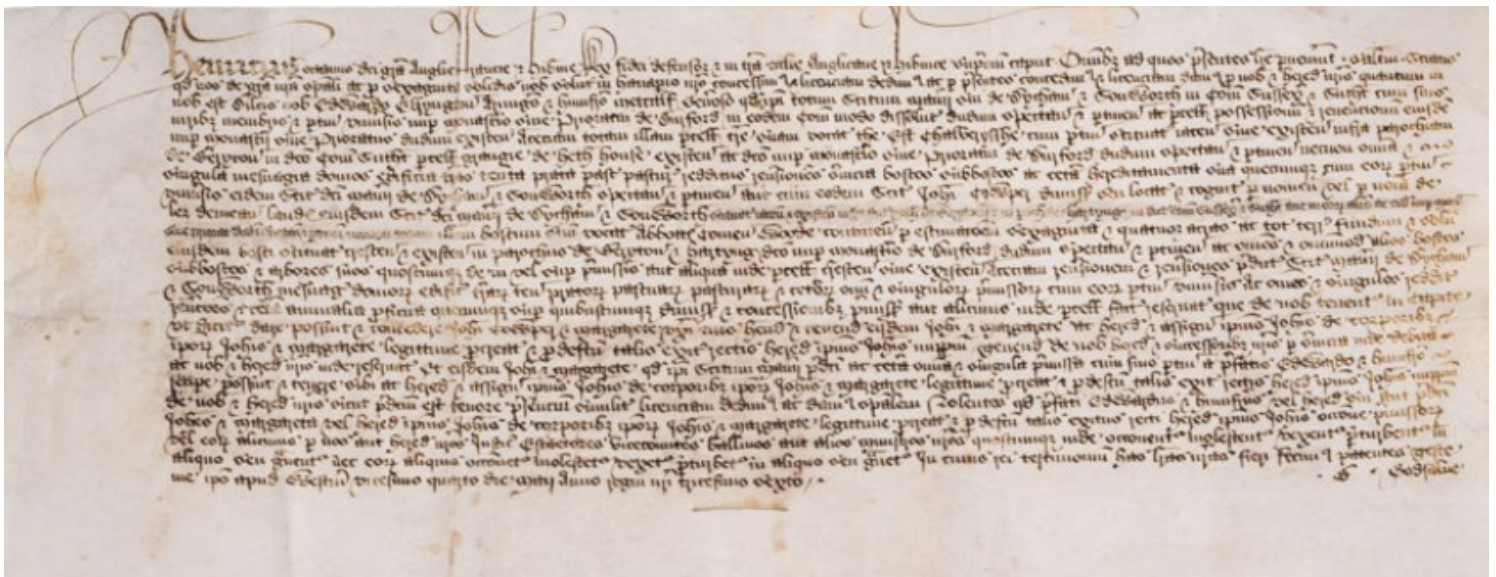
WSAS grants: latest acquisitions

Archives come up for sale in auction houses and sale rooms at various times throughout the year, often at very short notice. WSAS plays a vital role in providing match funding that enables us to apply for grants from funders such as the Friends of the Nations' Libraries (FNL) and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund. In March we were thus able to acquire:

- ♦ a licence from King Henry VIII to Edward Elryngton and Humfrey Metcalf to alienate the Manor of Dycham and Sonworth in Ditcham and Sunworth, previously owned by the abbey of Durford, 24 May 1545; and
- ♦ an album of watercolour views of Chichester by Julia Henty, of the family of Henty (later Henty and Constable), brewers, [c.1870].

Durford (or Dureford) Abbey was a Premonstratensian abbey founded in 1161 near Rogate. Following its dissolution in 1536 the abbey and its lands (including the manors of Ditcham and Sunworth) were granted to Sir William Fitzwilliam. Following his death without issue in 1542 the manor reverted to the crown, and on 16 April 1544 the king granted the manor of Ditcham and Sunworth to Edward Elryngton and Humphrey Metcalf for an annual payment of 30s. In 1545, as the document records, the king gave a licence to Edward and Humphrey to alienate the site of the manors and the other premises to John Cowper and Margaret his wife. The property remained in the Cowper-Cole family until 1868 when it was sold to Charles Cammell of the Cammell Laird shipbuilding firm.

This document records a key moment in the history of these manors as they passed from monastic ownership into the possession of the family who would own them for over two centuries. It thus represents a microcosm of the mass transfer of land from the monasteries to lay ownership which took place after the dissolution of the monasteries. The document will be an important resource for researchers interested in the story of the manor, the Cowper family, and Durford Abbey. Further information about the abbey can be found in *Durford Abbey and its Land*, E M Yates (1980), *Durford Abbey*, Leslie Lloyd (1990) and *The Durford Cartulary*, Janet H Stevenson (2006).



WSRO Acc 21158 Licence from Henry VIII to alienate the Manor of Ditcham and Sunworth in Buriton and Harting previously owned by Durford Abbey, 1545



WSRO Acc 21158 Album of watercolours of Chichester by Julia Henty, c1870.

WSRO holds other records relating to Ditcham and the Cowper family, notably two commonplace books belonging to Richard Cowper, (Add Mss 14623-14624) from the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

The album of watercolour views of Chichester by Julia Henty provides a vivid sense of Chichester in around the 1870s. The life of the cathedral close is captured in detail, including choirboys and clergy, whilst the paintings also record less well documented scenes, such as Douglas and Julia Henty's house in Westgate.

The Henty family ran the Westgate Brewery in Chichester from 1827 until 1921 when the company merged with Constable & Sons of Arundel to form Henty & Constable Ltd. Julia Henty (née Biddulph-Martin, part of the Martin banking family) married Douglas Henty in 1867 and lived in Westgate, Chichester until just after the First World War. Active in local affairs in Chichester, Julia Henty made a number of substantial donations to the Royal West Sussex Hospital over the years which enabled the building of a laundry and the improvement of the out-patient department.

Jennifer Mason, Collections Manager, WSRO

The WSAS Inventory Project

The largely forgotten but valuable WSAS Inventory Project was started at the suggestion of Caroline Adams over thirty years ago with the organisation undertaken by WSAS secretary, Norma Weir. The project was to transcribe probate inventories from as many West Sussex parishes as possible with the help of volunteers, many of them members of WSAS – including myself.

What are probate inventories?

West Sussex Record Office has a wealth of probate inventories, especially from the 17th and 18th centuries. After a person died, an inventory had to be produced at the time of granting of probate, or at the issuing of letters of administration if the person died intestate.

Probate inventories were carried out by overseers, usually appointed by the deceased, and provide a wide range of information. They can show household furnishings or business stock. They document the changes in living standards of ordinary people over the centuries, and the introduction of luxury items. They give agricultural historians information on land, crops and livestock. They can show tools of various trades and occupations, and can give names and values of business and domestic items. Inventories are very interesting for the family historian lucky enough to find one listing the belongings of one of their own ancestors and can be useful if other parish records are missing.

The WIP project – who was involved?

The original probate inventories were photocopied parish by parish and volunteers transcribed one or more inventories, which were checked, and then typed and bound in volumes with the original photocopies and deposited at the Record Office under Miscellaneous Papers (MP).

Norma Weir later handed over the organization of the project to long standing members of WSAS, Daphne and Brian Norton. Between them Daphne and Brian also transcribed nearly one hundred inventories themselves. Sadly Brian died in October 2025 but Daphne will continue the good work with the help of Martyn Loveys and willing volunteers.

If any members of WSAS would like to be involved please email contact@wsas.com and we will put you in touch with Daphne to find out how you can help.

How to find the transcripts

The inventory transcripts listed by parish can be found in the WSRO online catalogue using the 'Advanced' dialogue box, then entering 'Probate' in the main search box and 'MP' in the 'search for or within references' box.

There are many hits and they will not all be from the WIP work, but these all start off as 'Transcript of...' in the Title field, and then have 'Transcribed by...' in the Description field.

Just over 90 parishes have been transcribed under the WIP project so far.

Thanks to Caroline Adams, Nichola Court and Daphne Norton for providing information.

Leigh Lawson

Notices

WSAS committee

Carol Brinson

Kim Fleming

Richard Howell, chairman

Mike Kipling

Leigh Lawson, secretary

Annette Lloyd Thomas

Jane Mant, treasurer, membership secretary

Susan Millard

John Mills

Wendy Walker, county archivist

Helen Whittle, journal editor

All are contactable at: contact@wsas.co.uk Further Society information is on the website: www.wsas.co.uk and on the WSAS Facebook and Instagram sites.

Registered Charity no 266997.

The Old Bakehouse, 21 Broadwater Street East, Worthing BN14 9AA

Leigh Lawson is once again generously opening this 1860s bakehouse for the financial benefit of WSAS. It will be open daily at 2-4pm from Wednesday 10 to Saturday 13 June. Entry is £5 per person by advance booking, BACS payments to WSAS (see below).

Visitors will see an exhibition of related documents, photographs and artefacts. Note that the brick floor is uneven, and that there is one step down.

A quicker (and cheaper) way to book WSAS events

As an alternative to posting a cheque and using the booking forms printed in *The Researcher* (see p 15) it can be more convenient to book and pay by bank transfer to:

West Sussex Archives Society, account no. 10942073, sort code 20-20-62

When using this method it is essential to e-mail contact@wsas.co.uk to let us know that you have made the transfer, specifying the event/s being booked and naming those attending.

West Sussex History indexing

The indexing of the Society's journal, *West Sussex History*, is now being kept up to date in association with the Sussex Record Society (SRS). Indexes can be found as follows:

issues 1-50 (1974-1992) - see the printed index at WSRO in box Lib 13374; and

issues 1-present (1974-2025) - see on-line:

<https://www.sussexrecordsociety.org/search-the-bibliography/>

For a higher level of detail for issues 1-50 it is recommended that members use the first option. The indexing on the SRS website is more detailed from issue 85 (2017) onwards following a revision to SRS's indexing protocol.

Explore Your History: Events at the Record Office

Talks

WSAS members are invited to the Record Office's series of talks. The following talk is part of a pilot for a new slot on Mondays at 3pm.

Monday 27 April 2026: Transforming the Wealden garden - the development of 'plantsmen gardens' by incoming country house families c.1840-1920s, by Sue Berry

We hope you'll join us, either in person (advance booking essential) or online.

Workshops for family and local historians

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 and cover a wide range of sources.

The programme for 2026 is as follows.

6 May	How to start your family tree
3 June	Reading old handwriting
2 September	Researching the history of your house
7 October	Getting started with Ancestry.co.uk

Open Day

The Record Office will be celebrating its 80th anniversary with an open day on Saturday 21 November 2026. Details will be published shortly, but please make a note of the date in your diary.

Discount code for WSAS members

For WSAS members a discount of £1 on WSRO events is available. The discount code has been sent to our members who use e-mail, and should be quoted when booking WSRO events on-line via the new WSRO website. Note that the code is changed from time to time. WSRO events can still be booked in person at the reception or over the telephone.

***** Please book and pay on wsro.org.uk/events *****

WSAS Events

The following three events are now ready for booking.

Women of Courage: stories from RAF Tangmere

Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 2pm

At Assembly Room (first floor), North Street, Chichester PO19 1LQ; SU860049

Local historian Sheryl Green will be reporting on the stories that she has discovered about women associated with the RAF aerodrome at Tangmere. This is a Chichester Women's History Group event, to which WSAS members are invited.

WSAS members only; others should apply directly to the Chichester Women's History Group.

WSAS members: £8.50

Visit to St John's Chapel Chichester, and local walk

Saturday 6 June 2026 at 2pm

At St John's Chapel, St John's Street, Chichester PO19 1UR; SU863047

St John's Chapel is a rare surviving example of a Georgian proprietary chapel. It opened in 1813 to the design of the London architect, James Elmes, and John Marsh was the first chapel warden. It was listed Grade I in 1950 on account of the survival of its three-decker pulpit and the original box pews in the gallery. The only major change since 1813 is that the downstairs box pews were replaced in 1879. The chapel closed in 1973 and is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Alan Green (author of *St John's Chapel and the New Town*, Phillimore 2005) will give a guided tour of this unusual building and it is hoped that Dr Alan Thurlow, *quondam* organist of Chichester Cathedral, will demonstrate the recently restored 1813 organ. After the visit Alan will lead a short walk around the surrounding New Town to put the chapel in context.

WSAS members: £6; Non members: £8

Visit to Ardingly College and Archives

Saturday 18 July 2026 at 1.45pm for 2pm

At Ardingly College, Ardingly, Haywards Heath RH17 6SQ; TQ340285

Meet in the car park situated about 50 yards on the left after entering the gates of the college.

This visit to one of the three Woodard schools in Sussex will include a tour of the college buildings and the chapel, and access to view some of the college archives. There will also be the opportunity to view the farm buildings designed by William Butterfield, architect of Keble College, Oxford. Refreshments will be provided.

This event is for members and their guests only; maximum of 20 attending.

WSAS members and guests: £10

Booking for WSAS events

Please book and pay either by e-mail and bank transfer (see page 12) or by returning the booking forms with your cheque to: WSAS, % West Sussex Record Office, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RN.

We do not issue tickets or receipts for bookings. For queries please contact: contact@wsas.co.uk
Event details are also at www.wsas.co.uk and on the WSAS Facebook page.

Women of Courage: stories from RAF Tangmere, 19 May 2026 at 2pm

At Assembly Room, North Street, Chichester

Members only: £8.50

Names of members attending _____

Tel no or e-mail address _____

Visit to St John's Chapel, Chichester, 6 June 2026 at 2pm

At St John's Chapel, Chichester

Members: £6; non members: £8

Names of members attending _____

Tel no or e-mail address _____

Names of non members attending _____

Tel no or e-mail address _____

Visit to Ardingly College, 18 July 2026 at 1.45pm for 2pm

At Ardingly College, near Haywards Heath

Members and guests: £10

Names of members attending _____

Tel no or e-mail address _____

Names of members' guests attending _____

Tel no or e-mail address _____



Left: Replica bust of King Charles II by Derek Rollings, made 1978-79, WSRO AM 1924

Below: Grove Park (Chichester housing development), promotional material, WSRO AM 1983

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General Information

City Council: City Council, Greyfriars, North Street, Chichester. (4255)

Electricity Authority: Southern Electricity Board, Southgate, Chichester (3861)

Gas Authority: Southern Gas Board, East Street, Chichester. (22271)

Local Educational Office: Director of Education, County Hall, Chichester. (3000)

Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of these particulars, their accuracy is not guaranteed, nor do they form part of any Warranty or Contract.

"GROVE PARK" is situated just under a mile away from the city centre enjoying a good 'bus service (quarter hourly) passing the entrance. Regular electric train service on the Southern Region line to London (Victoria).

First class shopping facilities including a variety of multiple stores are within the city centre, and among many other of the city's amenities are the new Festival