EDITOR’S NOTES

Members will have observed how, number by number, Newsletter has been growing in length. In the case of the present issue, this has been due partly to the need to post it when other matter would be available for distribution – in order to economise on postage – and this, in effect, has caused the loss of one quarter’s issue; and partly to the ever increasing quantity of information which is coming forward, not least in respect of current excavations, which is of particular interest to all members. The second factor indicates that archaeological work in Sussex has a quickening tempo which, we trust, will continue to accelerate until it is more than equal to the demands of current development. It is possible that, in future, the average length of Newsletter will need to be greater than has been the case and, with this fact in mind and with an eye to the rapidly increasing costs of printing, consideration is being given constantly to a production which is both adequate and within the means of the Society. It may be noted that this issue has been printed on a somewhat less expensive paper and by a new printer; other changes may prove to be desirable and it is hoped that the result, ultimately, will be to give members more information, more quickly, at no greater cost and without undue loss of clarity or style.

The Editor invites Local Secretaries, and all members, to contribute relevant items of interest which are not otherwise covered by Newsletter and hopes, in future numbers, to have a little more space in which to do them justice.

The annual whole-day County Conference will be held on Saturday, 8th November, 1975 at Lewes Priory (Middle) School and will cover current archaeology in Sussex.

The Hon. Librarian reports that a copy of the East Sussex County Council’s publication Which Direction is available in the library at Barbican House.

The list of forthcoming excavations, in this issue, contains details of all excavations known to the Editor to be taking place during 1975; it may be that this is not complete and he welcomes information from responsible organizations which will permit such lists to be as complete as possible. The attention of members is directed particularly to the impressive number of proposed projects of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit, whose work is always of an urgent nature and is constantly in need of volunteer labour.

THE SOCIETY’S NEW SECRETARY

Colonel Kenneth Wilbe-Jones, M.A. took up his duties in September last. Educated at St. Edmunds School, Canterbury and at the Universities of London and Oxford, he was, for some years, a master of King’s School, Gloucester. After being commissioned into the City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders) he served in the Royal Artillery in Combined Operations, North Africa and Italy and was Chief Executive Officer to the Allied Military Government in Rome. He then served with the B.A.O.R. before transferring to Royal Army Education Corps as Chief Instructor at the Centre for Higher Education at Hanover. Subsequently, he served as a member of the Army Regular Commissions Board, in the Directorate of Education and Training at the War Office and as Chief Education Officer, Middle East. On retirement from the Army in 1961, Colonel Wilbe-Jones took up a civilian appointment as Head of Academic Studies at the Metropolitan Police Cadet Training College at Ashford, from which he retired in 1971.

Colonel Wilbe-Jones’ long experience, both military and academic, should serve him admirably in his new sphere and we wish him every success.

ASPECTS OF SAXON SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

This conference, under the deft chairmanship of Mr. Henry Cleere, Director of the CBA, was again organised for the Society by the Research Committee and held at the Priory (Middle) School, Lewes on Saturday, 19th October. Every seat in the hall had been taken by eager listeners, who were not disappointed.

Six papers were presented and these introduced some new thinking and much new information on the subject of the Conference, the theme of which was closely followed.

Mrs. Sonia Hawkes, with care and covering much ground, dealt with the pattern of Saxon settlement in SE England, described its European background, its Roman and sub-Roman associations, introduced information from new sources, indicated how Bede’s dating of events could be incorrect and showed the links between the site at Mucking on the Essex coast and those on the Kent shore which, together, could have controlled entry into the Thames; and drew attention to the resemblance between the bracteates and some of the early pottery of the Anglo-Saxons of the SE and those of Jutland. She noted that there was now a school of thought which regarded the ‘ing’ place-names as indications of secondary settlements.

With a wealth of fine illustration and a mastery of his subject, Mr. David Leigh described the work of the Anglo-Saxon jewellers of Kent and produced most informative details of their craftsmanship, examining art-forms and components, metallurgical intricacies, dimensional comparisons and Scandinavian affinities; and observed that the magnificent brooches might not necessarily have been the work of one man but could have been the product of a team.

Professor David Wilson began the afternoon session, speaking on ‘The Art of Southern England in the 9th - 11th Centuries’ which he described as ‘the fine flower of Southern English Art’. Keeping his audience constantly amused, while engaging their rapt attention, he showed how England, at that period, was a leading country in the world of art, and mentioned William of Poiriers’ reference to the superior arts of England; he emphasised the importance of embroidery as the female art-form and of metal work as the male, remarking that St. Dunstan — who became the patron saint of jewellers — was a competent bell-caster.

Mr. T.C. Champion gave a most lucid exposition of the recent excavations at the Saxon settlement at Chalton — just over the border in Hampshire. He referred to its large area — 15 acres — of which 2.5 had been excavated and had produced 2000 - 3000 post holes, including some which might be associated with plank uprights. Many structures — some quite fine — and a considerable input of labour and capital were indicated and the discoveries had induced a new approach to methods of construction, of which much had been learned in the course of the work. Precise dating had presented difficulties: the site was not typical of Germanic settlement and it had the feeling of a secondary foundation. It was a normality, perhaps, that the work should have raised as many questions as it had answered.

The final papers were introduced by Mr. Peter Drewett, Field Director of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit who, with the aid of pertinent illustrations of his territory, including coloured aerial transparencies, explained the purpose and organisation of his Unit and described his own recent work on a doomed long barrow, near Alfriston and the first to be excavated in Sussex, where a construction of the third millennium BC had covered a single crouched burial; and on round barrows at West Heath. Mr. Drewett was followed by two of his site directors, Mr. S.F. Freke and Mr. Martin Bell, who spoke of their work, respectively, on the defences of Saxon Lewes and the Saxon settlement on Rookery Hill, Bishophome. Of the former, Mr. Freke showed how a ditch — at least 8m deep had been found in Lancaster Street while, elsewhere, although 1cspits
were plentiful, defences were not, notwithstanding the representations of maps and records, over a long period, Mr. Bell, telling of the progress of his excavations, observed that the line of course had been minted in Rome between 402 and 408 AD and he noted the proximity of the settlement to the Saxon cemetery, excavated earlier, one of many which, of which only 6 had been 17th centurn. The site had a fine view of the Ouse estuary and looked defensive; and the construction of its buildings, in some respects, bore a similarity to those of Chalon.

The many questions which were stimulated by the papers all received and the time and treatment and the conference was admirably conducted by the Chairman.

Mr. Ken Suckling, the Conference Secretary is, once more, to be thanked and congratulated on the excellent outcome of his hard work.

**SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD UNIT.**

In *Rescue Archaeology in Sussex: A Pilot Survey* a provisional arrangement for the organization of a publicly-funded rescue archaeology unit in Sussex was outlined. As both Regional and County arrangements in other areas, together with the needs both of Sussex and the Institute become clearer, the scheme outlined in para. 3.2 of the Survey requires modification and further implementation. The principal alteration arises from the D.O.E. announce-ment to set up a Regional Committee for SE England (Kent, Surrey, Sussex) as the basis of a Pilot Survey. This Committee appears identical to that of the Academic Executive as previously outlined, although of course, it will cover a larger area. It is, therefore, proposed that the Academic Executive be replaced by a Management Committee of the Sussex Field Unit to bring the organization into line with other counties with full-time units. The membership of the Management Committee will be as outlined in para. 3.4 of the Pilot Survey.

There have also been alterations in the staffing of the full-time unit, Mr. V. Gregory, B.A., has resigned from the Unit and from archaeology, as his interests have become more geared towards organization; he is embarking on a career in business management. We have, therefore, taken the opportunity to re-think the staff structure. With the appointment of a County Field Archaeologist in West Sussex, and the hope of one for East Sussex, the existence of Unit County Field Officers was thought to create some confusion, as the maintenance of a county and monument record and the more day-to-day organization of archaeology will rest with the County Field Archaeologists, it was thought that the Unit Field Officers need not be restricted to one county. The current staff arrangement is as follows:-

Mr. P.L. Drewett, B.Sc. Field Director
*Home Address:* Four Acre Farm, Langley Lane, Ripe, East Sussex.
*Telephone:* 0321-83-340

Dr. O. Bedwin, M.A., Ph.D., Senior Field Officer (Excavations)
*Home Address:* 23A Montpelier Crescent, Brighton, West Sussex.

Field Officer (Field Survey) to be appointed.

Mr. D.J. Freke, M.A., Dip. A.D., Urban Officer (Part-time)
*Home Address:* 9, Oakhill Avenue, Hove, Sussex.
*Telephone:* 01-435-3443

Miss C.R. Cartwright, M.A. Research Assistant.


Mr. C. Page, Secretary (Joint with Institute of Archaeology Department of Prehistory).

All letters except of a most urgent nature should be sent in person or by post to:

The Field Director, Sussex Archaeological Field Unit, Institute of Archaeology, University of London, 31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1H OPY.
*Telephone:* 01-387-6052.

**THE WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM.**

The Museum’s Winter *Newsletter* reports that, despite the general economic climate, another successful season was experienced in 1974 during which, up to that time, 126,000 visitors had been received; the fine 18th century Hambrook Barn had been opened by the Minister for the Arts, Mr. Hugh Jenkins, M.P.; the Titchfield Market Hall had been completed and work was proceeding on the cobbled market square; the construction of the mill-ponds was almost finished; and the repairs to Pendean Farmhouse were well in hand and its fame expected to be erected in time for the forthcoming season. With the appointment of Miss Heather Jackson as Information Officer, it should be possible to develop educational facilities.

The Museum is still in need of Volunteer Stewards and the Director will be pleased to forward, to anyone interested, details of the work involved.

**LOCAL SOCIETIES.**

The Local Society, in the fields of archaeology, local history and conservation, whether in all three or in a single aspect of one, still has a great part to play. The Editor is grateful to the officers of those organizations whose kind permission enabled us to publish their reports and of notices of particular interest.

From the *Bulletin* of the East Grinstead Society, we learn that their activities have resulted in an increased interest in the town for the creation of a museum, for which material is already being offered; and that their exhibitions seem likely to become an annual event. It is interesting to learn, too, that the last Court Leet for the Manor of Uffington was held in the Crown Hotel, East Grinstead, so recently as 1883. The Bulletin is a model of clarity and inter alia gives students many sources of information of their local history. With customary initiative the East Grinstead Society is producing a series of excellent postcard views of the town’s life. The first of these is now available at 25p plus postage for 5 postcards and they are obtainable from the Society’s Treasurer at Barclays’ Bank, East Grinstead; the views are of, respectively, the opening of the second railway station in 1866, the prize-winning fire brigade of 1913, Lynn’s Mason’s yard of about the same time, London Road in c. 1910 and Duke’s shop front of that date.

The Eastbourne Local History Society report a satisfactory response to their booklet *Eastbourne face to face* and are now engaged upon two further works, *A Short History of Eastbourne* and *The Tithes Award Schedule of 1841*.

The *Newsletters* of the Lewes Archaeological Group indicate a lively membership, the scope of whose activities is as remarkable as it is admirable, with members engaged in excursions of the group, assistance with those, in Lewes town, of the *Sussex* and of *Local Societies* who, to their *Annual Report to the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society, too, speaks of great activity with regular lectures, excursions and excavations — both direct and in association with the SAFU — and in the processing of archaeological material. Its membership continues to increase and it is noteworthy that the cost of its several excavations represented only some 12% of the annual subscription — a tribute to the voluntary aspect of its labour-force.

The Regency Society of Brighton and Hove, whose activities are largely, but not wholly, concerned with conservation have arranged a June visit to St. Peter Port, Guernsey and many members may be surprised to learn that this town was one of the principal Regency towns and probably ranked next after Brighton and Cheltenham. This Society, too, recently was joint-sponsor of an exhibition of the works of R.H. Nibbs, the 19th century Sussex artist whose views of Sussex churches have been of great value to ecclesiologists.

**EXCAVATIONS 1974**

**BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**

Bishopstone
See under Sussex Archaeological Field Unit.

Newhaven
*TQ 445013*

This year, excavations in Newhaven were completed with a final 2-weeks season on Site 1. Last year’s work on this site had produced a length of flint walling and two Roman-British cremation burials and this year’s excavation was a 30ft x 20ft area next to last year’s trench. The wall was found to be part of a large building, the north-east corner of which lay in the excavation, while much of the rest had been destroyed during the building of the ring road in 1971; it was traced for 40ft and represented the outer north wall of the building, 7ft south of this wall was another, smaller, flint wall, forming an internal division of the building. At its East end it formed 4ft from the East wall, leaving a doorway, connecting the interior rooms. The East wall was represented by a line of 5 post-holes. A similar line of posts ran along the inside of the outer north wall; under these, indications of an earlier row of posts showed that the building had been once rebuilt.
A shallow gully inside the building may represent an internal drain-age channel; its presence supports the suggestion that the building was a barn or a byre for cattle. The gully contained demolition debris and pottery from the building and suggested a 2nd century A.D. date for its demolition. Small finds included a bronze brooch and a ring.

Under the Romano-British levels some flint flakes were found in channels of geological origin and are believed to date from the Pleistocene Ice Age.

Martin G. Bell.

**Streatham Moated Site, Small Dole, Henfield**

TQ 201137

Between 19th and 31st August, further work was undertaken, when an area of some 1400 sq.ft. was excavated.

The footings of the SE area of Building E1 (c.1250) were revealed and this work permitted completion of the examination of the area of a large chamber (44ft x 20ft) which had been commenced during the previous season; the external walls were those of a stone-built structure and had been robbed of all useable material. The 'watergate' suggested to have been a southern projection of this building and its E wall preserved; five courses of faced sandstone blocks, in white mortar, which had been built into the mortar bank. Among the small finds were window lead and a goat of Edward III. Over 500 oyster shells, recovered from the 'squatter's' level, were sent to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum for use in firing 'medieval' pottery in its reconstruction.

A trial box proved the presence of the stone footings of a timber-framed building which had stood immediately to the west of Building E1

The chronology of the site can now be stated with some confidence:

- C.1000 - C.1150 Some use of the site, which was probably uninhabited.
- C.1250 Erection of principal stone building (E1) - probably an early manor house, with an integral chapel.
- C.1325 Demolition of Building E1 and the erection, over its northern area, of a timber-framed house (E2). Construction of kiln, scoop-well and well-tiled trackway.
- C.1350 Abandonment of site as a dwelling-place, probably because of excessive flooding.
- C.1350 - C.1400 Site in the hands of 'squatters', probably the men who worked at the kiln and other ancillary buildings and who littered many areas of the site with cooking debris.
- C.1400 - C.1450 Entire area, except for kiln and a barn ('C'), which had been built over the southern area of Building E1, used as a stockyard.
- C.1500 Site deserted.

A Barr - Hamilton

**Slonk Hill, Shoreham**

TO 226065

From work in previous seasons, two lengths of Roman ditch were known. One, at the northern edge of the excavations, had been traced northward for 60ft. The 'watergate' was traced from east to west for 250 feet and was known to continue westward. The other, starting where there is now a cutting through the hill-side A27 road, had been traced northward for 60ft. Since both lengths were contemporary, being dated to the late first, or early second century, it was thought, that they might be part of the same ditch. By tracing the northern length a further 21ft eastwards, a right-angle bend was found, and a cutting between the bend and the north-south length confirmed the existence of one continuous L-shaped ditch. Traces of occupation contemporary with the ditch have been found to the east, immediately outside the angle formed by it. Within the ditch lies a square of later Roman postholes representing a structure which surrounded a Bronze Age barrow; it seems possible that the ditch could be a forerunner of this structure.

To the north of the settlement, more plough grooves, belonging to an ancient field system, were uncovered; these were sealed by a layer dated late 2nd, to early 4th century A.D.

Occupation during the first phase of the Iron Age was found to extend further to the north-west than was expected. A gully, thought to be the earliest boundary, was found to cut across the top of Iron Age postholes. The postholes must, therefore, be earlier than the gully.

From the second Iron Age phase, enough pieces of a saucepan put together enable a complete profile to be reconstructed; it is decorated by means of shallow tooling, with a simple but unusual design.

R. Hartridge

**CHICHESTER CIVIC SOCIETY EXCAVATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Chichester**

**Chapel Street**

The largest excavation ever to be undertaken by the Committee ended at Easter, 1974, after six years continuous work which has made a major contribution to the understanding of Roman Chichester, while some significant gains in the knowledge of other periods was also achieved.

**Roman:** The excavations produced important evidence of the military occupation of the area in 43 A.D., with possible military pottery kilns, bronze working and at least three phases of timber buildings; these were followed by a more substantial series of buildings which may represent the native town of King Cogidubnus. The latter phase of buildings continued to c.860, and a vast spread of gravel laid out, apparently covering much of the town centre and, on this, the streets were built. A cross-roads was found below the Central Girls School, with two large townhouses on the west side with timber buildings on the east side. Evidence for the decay of the houses and subsequent (?) squatter occupation in the late 4th—early 5th centuries was found. In Area 3, on the G.P.O. site, a large part of the Thermae was traced which, in turn, led to the present rescue dig in the car-park in Tower Street.

**Saxon:** Late Saxon occupation on the Roman street surfaces was discovered and it is hoped that a coherent plan may be reconstructed of some of the first Saxon buildings to be found in the city.

**Medieval:** Many medieval cess-pits were found, together with traces of some timber buildings, and the last excavation, in Messrs. Purchase's garden, produced the first evidence of late medieval cultivation within the city walls.

**Tower Street**

Roman Ditch 1: This ran west to east across the site on the north side, was undoubtedly one of the main drainage ditches serving the Roman town and was probably dug when the town was laid out in c.80 — 90 A.D.

Ditch II: This joined Ditch 1 from the south and must have drained from the Thermae.

**The Thermae:** The excavation of the south-east end of the Roman baths is still taking place. The building ran northwards from Morants for 27m before turning westwards and the area to the east and south-east showed that intensive robbing of the pieces of Roman structures had taken place, probably in the late Saxon—early Norman period, as there was a notable absence of medieval glazed wares from the bottom of robber trenches, which was true of the Saxon-Norman period predominated. At least two phases of building construction were noted and clear evidence of the extension of the building northwards. The full extent of the baths is not yet known but, by any standards, the total surface area is large and it seems evident from the position of the remains found earlier, below Mo rants, that the southern boundary of the site is on the West Street. The eastern was fixed when contractors' work was observed on the Post Office site. The northern boundary appears to be just south of Ditch 1, so that only the western limit remains to be established; and it is fairly certain that these would have been defined by the SW corner of the Thermae found below the new extension to the County Hall on the west side of Tower Street.

So far, no evidence has been found which can give a date for the construction of the Thermae, but it seems likely that it continued in use until the end of the Roman period and fell into decay when urban life broke down at some time in the 5th century.

**Saxon:** No structures of the Saxon period were found but some middle-Saxon coarse wares were noted, as well as a high proportion of Saxo-Norman fabrics, mentioned above. Some late and mid-Saxon cess-pits have been excavated indicating the presence of Saxon timber buildings in the vicinity. The remains of the baked-clay superstructure of a kiln were found, thrown into one of the large, robber pits, dug into the Thermae: with it were large quantities of pottery washers in a Saxo-Norman fabric. This is the first evidence from Chichester of pottery kilns functioning within the city in the 11th/12th centuries.

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GARDEN HILL RESEARCH GROUP

Three weeks of excavation of the Romano-British settlement of Garden Hill took place in August, last. 30 – 40 people took part daily and a total area of 5300 sq ft, of varying depth, was dug. Brief results are as follows:

1. The rampart and ditch were sectioned just N. of the inturned entrance. The ditch was broad with a flat base and the rampart had been heavily revetted with stone as well as having a palisade fence at the top. At a time when hardly any silt had accumulated in the ditch, the revetment stones had been thrown into it. The features resembled those of the High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells. Period 2 earthwork, thought to have been constructed to meet the 1st century Claudian invasion and quickly destroyed.

2. An area, S. of the bath house, when cleared, was found to contain several, probably non-contemporary, wooden buildings, represented by lines of post-holes: their completed plan will have to await further excavation. West of the bath house, the postholes of another large, wooden building were uncovered, with a wing built on stone sub-walls; this appears to be of the 1st century and to predate the bath house but is itself pre-dated by the slot of an Iron Age type circular hut, of 36 ft diameter, which it overlies.

3. A square, dug just inside the rampart, on the SE side of the earthwork, revealed an area devoted to the iron industry mainly, it would appear, smith’s work and forging.

Finds of pottery were numerous and included an amphora sherd with potter’s stamp. There were also found more window and soil glass and a part of a silver ring with intaglio ornament.

Unfortunately, through increasing costs, these important results, uncovering Wealden prehistory, have left the group in debt and they would welcome suggestions for raising further funds.

C.F. Tebbutt.

HASTINGS AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP AND HASTINGS MUSEUM

Hastings Old Town, Winding Street

TQ 824095

A limited excavation was carried out inside the old town wall, when the 'natural', a greenish, yellow clay, was found at a depth of 1m below the road level. Phase 1 consisted of a layer of brownish clay, containing medieval potsherds, two bronze straps, a needle, a 'D'-shaped buckle, a pendant, five iron fish-hooks, a dagger, fitting and nails. Phase II comprised an oval pit, dug through Phase 1 to the natural (? for clay), containing medieval potsherds, a bronze strap-end and an iron hinge. Phase III consisted of the west wall and part of the floor of a medieval house; six flat stones and a post-hole were interpreted as the base of a half-timbered wall and the original clay platform of the house contained medieval pottery, a bronze square buckle, a rectangular belt-plate, a (?) button, an iron fish-hook, nails and three tubular lead weights for nets or line; a bronze fitting was found in the posthole but only a few sherds occurred in the numerous floor levels.

D. Devenish.

HIGH HURSTWOOD, HERMITAGE ROCKS.

TQ 0496251

In June, a small exploratory excavation was carried out in conjunction with Mr. R.M. Jacoby’s researches into the Mesolithic period. A trench, 10ft x 5ft, was dug at right angles to the rock face and water was reached at a depth of about 18ins. In this section some 2500 flint artifacts were recovered, including about 50 microliths, burins, cores, etc. The microliths included several Hornsham Points. A quantity of charcoal was found at two levels and this has been sent to the Cambridge laboratories for Carbon 14 dating. It is hoped that some of the burnt flints, after polishing, may be dated by the thermo-luminescence method. A date for the Hornsham industry in Sussex may thus be established.

C.F. Tebbutt.

A.G. Woodcock

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ROBERTSBRIDGE AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Mayfield, Hawksden Wood
TQ 617618.

Excavations on this moated site were continued, revealing buildings constructed around a 51ft x 49ft stone paved courtyard. All four ranges contained rooms measuring only 15ft, wide internally, and with the exception of the stone curtain wall, were of timber-framing throughout. The roofs were a mixture of west country slate, stone slabs and clay tiles, the latter two probably having been used for patching.

The gatehouse, located slightly off-centre of the north-west side, consisted of a 10ft x 11ft room with a 6ft wide entrance through the north-west and south-west walls. In the room in the northern corner was a bakehouse which contained two open hearths and two ovens, each being superseded by the next. The last oven was constructed of mortared ashlar blocks and originally measured 9 ft. square; only two courses remained. The entire building appears, initially, to have been constructed in the mid-14th century and undergone a series of minor modifications before being abandoned in the 16th or early 17th centuries. Initially, the complete structure was left to deteriorate but, after the roofs had fallen in, the stone sleeper walls of the timber-framed sections were robbed for the stone.

David Martin.

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD UNIT,
INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Alfriston:
TQ 509036

A small, oval, long barrow of the third millennium B.C., was totally excavated, prior to its destruction by ploughing. Flanking ditches, some 25m. long, were located on either side of a low mound. Although a mid-19th century robber trench had disturbed much of the southern end of the barrow, a single grave-pit, containing a crouched burial of a young female, was located under the centre of the mound. Evidence from the ditch silts gave information about land use from the Neolithic to the present-day.

P.L. Drewett.

Angmering
TQ 068045

The site of the church of St. Nicholas was excavated, prior to development. A late Saxon church with a apsidal chancel was located beneath the much enlarged rectangular chancel of the 12th century. In the 13th century a porch was added at the west end of the church and a chapel along the south side of the nave. In the 15th century a tower was added. The church was systematically demolished in the late 16th century.

O. Bedwin.

Bishopstone
TQ 468009

Rescue excavations of a Late Bronze Age to Anglo-Saxon site were prompted by heavy plough destruction (see Bishopstone Excavations 1968/71 by M.G. Bell, published by the University of Sussex Archaeological Society, for a summary of earlier work).

The earliest features contained pottery of Late Bronze Age type and were succeeded by an Early Iron Age enclosure ditch, inside which were seven, four-post, and one six-post, structures. Three pits were of Early Iron Age and two of late Iron Age date; one contained a contracted male skeleton. Part of a rectangular 2nd century Romano-British enclosure lay in the excavation area. Five rectangular timber buildings and one sunken hut indicated a substantial settlement in the Migration period. The buildings were of average dimensions, 8m. x 5m., and were all aligned E-W; they were probably contemporary with the Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated in 1967/68, 120m. to the S/SE and dated to the 5th century A.D. (see Med. Arch. XII, p. 161, and XIII, p. 240).

Martin G Bell.

Crawley, Broadfields
TQ 258353

Continuing rescue excavation of this Romano-British iron-working site has been concentrated on defining the eastern limits of the enclosure located on Site II. A 'V'-shaped perimeter ditch was traced for 26m. Inside the enclosure, a building measuring 15m. x 7m., and a number of post-holes were excavated. Within the building, though not contemporary with it, were five shaft-type smelting furnaces, one being dated by C-14 to 1900 + 60 B.P.

The excavation is now complete of the building, located in 1973; it measured 14.5m. x 9m., and had been fitted with an oven set into a clay floor.

John Gibson-Hill

Lewes
TQ 410100

Three areas, 12 x 6m., 12 x 15m., and 12 x 6m., were excavated. One revealed that the line of the medieval town wall had been wrongly marked and described on maps and in publications from the 18th century to the modern Ordnance Survey. The second uncovered a 14th century cobbled yard, an unsuspected 15th century metalled road and a sequence of 18th and 19th century tanning pits. The third was a section through a ditch, at least 8m. deep, which may be attributable to the Saxon settlement of Lewes.

D.J. Freke.

Pagham, Becketts Barn
SZ 885974

The interior of the medieval barn was totally excavated and mortar floor levels of the 13th – 14th centuries A.D. were found to cover one third of the area inside the building, with a robbed-out wall trench separating them from the remainder of the floor area. In the centre of the floor area was a large, rectangular pit filled with packed stones, mortar and gravel, contemporary with the latest floor level; this may have been some form of support for an upper storey.

Another stone structure was excavated to the south of the barn; it had been heavily damaged by 19th century cart ruts, previous excavation trenches and levelling.

Both buildings overlie a Saxon midden deposit of the 8th century which was proved, by excavation, to extend at least 30m. x 5m. Several phases of 2nd century Roman ditches were traced. These were overlain by a road, made up of several layers of compacted flints, which was approx. 2m. wide; and this was traced for 30m. The road was earlier than the 8th century midden deposit but had some Saxon material embedded in its surface.

V.L. Gregory.

Harting, West Heath Common
SU 786227

Barrow III was totally excavated, together with a large area between it and Barrows I and II excavated in 1973; it was a 2-phase barrow, with an outer ditch, being some 36m. in diameter. The first phase consisted of a turf stack, contained within wicker-work hurdles, surrounded by a ditch 24m. in diameter. In the second phase, another ditch was dug, and the upcast from it used to bury the earlier structure. The centre of the barrow had been robbed and no burials were found. The majority of artifacts found consisted of worked flint in a Mesolithic tradition, although some may well be Bronze Age. Fission techniques recovered charcoal from the old land surface for C-14 dating, and a series of soil samples were taken for pollen analysis.

P.L. Drewett.

Winchelsea
TQ 9041178

Rescue excavation on the site of the proposed public lavatories in German Street, revealed substantial stone foundations of a town house, divisible into two main periods. In period I, c.1290-1350, a simple hall running N-S along the southern part of the site was the main structure with a room(s) running off to the east, forming with it an L-shape. Period II c.1350-c.1450, saw the rebuilding of the main hall, enlarging it by the addition of a quasi-aisle to the east, but moving the north end-wall to the S. A facade wall was built.

Martin G Bell.
along the west front, blocking a doorway which was rebuilt to the south. Further rooms were added at the back, filling out the space formed by the L-shape. Period III covers the subsequent history of the site, when the building was demolished and cleared out and the main west front wall used as the foundation for a park wall, c. 1650 onwards.

It seems that the site was built on, soon after the laying out of the town in the 1250's and that it fell victim to the economic decline brought about by the sifting of the harbour and the French raids during the 14th and 15th centuries. There are no indications as to its use except that its position near the market place may suggest a merchant's house.

A. King

SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

There has been little activity in connection with new work though the Tolhouse and Milestone Survey is proceeding steadily. An article on Railway Architecture in Sussex, in the last issue of Sussex Industrial History is now being expanded, into a book, by one of our members.

The restoration of Bateman's Watermill is nearing completion and the machinery should soon be turning over.

In September, last, the undersigned attended a meeting of the C.B.A. Panel on Industrial Monuments, at which some 60 sites in Sussex were considered and where recommendations were made for Listing or Scheduling.

The undersigned also attended, in September, the first Annual Conference of the Association for Industrial Archaeology, at which he was invited to contribute the volume on South East England (Kent, Surrey and Sussex) in the series of Regional Gazettes of Industrial Archaeology to be published by Batsfords, in collaboration with the C.B.A. Industrial Monuments Survey.

A. J. Haselfoot

WEALDEN IRON RESEARCH GROUP

The work of visiting and recording the Straker water-powered sites, after being suspended for the summer, was resumed in September. The work of cataloguing and conservation of the Straker collection at Michelham Priory continues. At the A.G.M. in July, Mrs. Sewell, daughter of Ernest Straker, was elected an honorary member.

C. F. Tebbutt

FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS

Volunteers will be welcomed at the following excavations:

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

- **Bishopstone** In conjunction with the Institute of Sussex Archaeological Field Unit, *Late Bronze Age to Saxon*. Director: Mr. Martin G. Bell, 16th August - 28th September.
- **Hovefield, Streathe Moated Site, Medieval** Director: Mr. A. Barr-Hamilton. 2nd - 16th August. Camping facilities available.

Apply to Mr. W.C.L. Gorton, B.E.M., Excavations Secretary, 1, The Deedsipe, Brighton BN1 8SA.

Chichester Civic Society Excavations Committee

- **Chichester, Tower Street, Roman** Director: Mr. Alec Down. Excavation is in progress, daily, until further notice.
- **Garden Hill Excavation Group** Roman-British. Director: Mr. J. H. Money, M.A., F.S.A. 2nd - 25th August. Apply to the Director, 25 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9DY. (Telephone 01-370 1650 before 09.15 or after 20.30 on week-days or Tunbridge Wells 22243 at week ends).

Sussex Archaeological Field Unit (Provisional Programme for 1975)

All projects undertaken by the Field Unit are in desperate need of local volunteer help. The number of rescue excavations undertaken by the Unit depends entirely on funds available and the amount of local support obtained. Please apply to the Project Director (name in brackets after site name), Sussex Archaeological Field Unit, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H OY. Beginners are very welcome.

1. **West Heath, Harting, West Sussex** Bronze Age Burial Cemetery (P. L. Drewett). 22nd March - 19th April
2. **Lewes, Saxon and Medieval Town** (D. J. Freke) 28th June - 9th August
3. **Bishopstone, East Sussex** Late Bronze Age to Saxon sites (M. Bell). 16th August - 28th September.
4. **Alfriston, East Sussex** Early Bronze Age Round Barrow (T. O'Connor). 22nd August - 19th September
6. **Elsted, West Sussex**, Romano-British Farmstead. (M. Redknapp) Late Summer.

Other possible excavations include an Iron Age site near Bognor, a Mesolithic site at Ardingly and an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery. In addition, field surveys will continue at Paedl and Alfriston while Mr. Freke will be co-ordinating an Urban Survey and Mr. Drewett a Survey of plough damage to known archaeological sites.

BOOKSHELF

Alec Down, *Chichester Excavations 2* (Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd., 1974, 176pp., illus., incl. 31 half tones, one colour plate and 73pp., of line drawings, price £4.25).

Alec Down, the present Director of Excavations in Chichester, has written a book which is a feast of good things, and Phillimore's have once more made a good job of production. It is mainly concerned with several important recent excavations in the city - Southgate, Tower Street, David Greig Site, etc.; these are recorded in detail with excellent illustrations and many line drawings. It is good to see that not only are the Roman finds being given prominence but that Ken Barton has produced well-illustrated work on the Saxon and later pottery. There is also a very pleasant scholarly account, of a group of 19th century ware from 41, Southgate, by Sheila Morgan - a welcome widening of the archaeological field. Gone, thank goodness, are the days when finds later than the Romans, tended to be overlooked.

The probable appearance of the Roman and medieval gates are discussed and there is an account of the excavation of a lost Roman basilica near Eastgate. The writer much enjoyed the Gazetteer of the Roman Gazetteer, one realised in what very good hands the archaeology of Chichester now is.

At first sight the book might seem to be a mass of archaeological papers with all their important but heavy-going pottery reports; but not a bit of it! Alec Down has woven his work and that of others of his group, and of the experts who dealt with their finds, into an enthralling story. Every family interested in Chichester should have a copy. And far more than they!

It is pleasant to see that the book is dedicated to Arthur Collins, the Honorary Secretary of the Excavations Committee for so many years. This is as it should be, Chichester (and Fishbourne) owe him a great debt for his work behind the picks and shovels.

G.P.B.

Alec Down, *Rescue Archaeology in Chichester* (Chichester: Phillimore and Co., Ltd., for the Chichester Civic Society Excavations Committee, 1974) 23pp., incl. 6 full-page plans. 60p.

This survey is similar in format to that of *Rescue Archaeology in Sussex*, also recently published (see Newsletter No. 13, p.50). In his foreword, Mr. Alec Down says 'the purpose of this guide is to present, in layman's language, an outline of the history of archaeology in Chichester to those who are most nearly concerned with processes which, by their very nature, are likely to be the greatest destruction of archaeological strata...' and it performs this function with precision. Mr. Down is purposeful and positive; he uses a
common sense approach, goes straight to the point and gives friendly and valuable information to potential disturbers of the face of Chichester, such as an idea of what to expect, both archaeologically and geologically and advice as to where they should contact, and when. The plans of the city during its various phases reduce a complicated subject to a suitable simplicity. The guide will also be appreciated by all who are interested in the history and archaeology of Chichester.

A.B.H.

Judith Glover *The Place Names of Sussex* (London: B.T. Batsford, Ltd., 1975) 190pp. £4.00

Medievalists gain a new eye for landscape when they remember that ‘moor’ in Saxon meant marsh and ‘broc’ meant water-meadow. Miss Glover’s book reminds us that the old path through such linguistic snares as these was smoothed by the well-thumbed and sun-blotched two volumes on Sussex Place Names published more than forty years ago by the English Place Name Society (ed., A. Mawer and F.M. Stenton). Since this first authoritative study of Sussex place names, the interpretation of early names has become more reliable and the files of the English Place Name Society (c/o University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.) continually fill with freshly discovered names (including field names) notified to them by local historians all over Sussex (the Hon. Secretary pleads for more). Until such time as a revised edition of Sussex place names is published, new interpretations of Sussex names are issued in the Society’s Journal.

How does Miss Glover’s book fit into this developing research programme? Regrettably, not at all. Her dictionary is silent on objectives, the principles of selection and documentary sources (thus making it virtually useless to scholars). A close study of her material reveals that it is largely derivative of about half the names in the two volumes of the Place Name Society, although in the best tradition of the eighteenth century, this is unacknowledged. Inevitably, the highly technical subject of place names and the dearth of publication since in its wake such books as Miss Glover’s No better advice to a beginner can be given than to avoid its serious shortcomings and to consult the earlier volumes, which are again in print.

P.F. Brandon.

**ORIGIN OF BRIGHTON’S NAME**

There has long been uncertainty about the derivation and original meaning of Brighton’s name. In his recent book, *Life in Brighton* (1970), Clifford Musgrave quotes Brightelmston thus repeating the view favoured by Reaney (*English Place Names*) Evwalt (ODEPN) and Mawer and Stenton (*Place Names of Sussex*) and meaning, according to them, ‘the farm of Beorhtelm’. Yet as the latter form does not appear in later documents, why these authorities should favour this derivation and meaning is not obvious. The earliest record of the name is *Brightelmston* and later it appeared in the following forms in documents as quoted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brightelmston</td>
<td>1086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighthelmston</td>
<td>1107, 1118, 1121, 1147, 1153, 1224, 1296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightelm possessed</td>
<td>1327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightton</td>
<td>late as 1432 when Peter Neldon referred to it as Brightston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightelston</td>
<td>1091, 1125 and 1196.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightelmston</td>
<td>1198 and 1215.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightthamston</td>
<td>1207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighthamston</td>
<td>1252 and 1301.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It will be noted that it was not until the 13th century that the element *Bright* appears at all; it then became the accepted form although, taken in conjunction with those that had preceded it, it would appear merely as a corruption of *Beorht*. Whether or not it was so, it is probably impossible now to say; but *beorht* would appear more like a back translation by the writers of *bright* into OE; it is surely impossible to make any serious case for deriving *Bright* from *Beorht*. It is thus worth canvassing the possible meaning of *Brightel- mestune*.

*El* is the diminutive suffix and *mest* is the superlative, i.e., most. Thus these two elements taken together give us ‘most small’; and it is suggested that *Beorht* is the metathetic form of *birst* (or *byrst*) from which we derive our word *burst*, and which Evwalt states meant ‘gap’ or ‘landslide’. We thus arrive at the meaning ‘the tun in the most small gap (or landslide)’. If we now visit the site of the early settlement where it gathers round what we know as Poul Valley, at the foot of the high hill, on the brow of which is the old parish church of St. Nicholas, it would surely be difficult to think of a more appropriate name for the settlement.

Finally, it is not without interest that Brighton in Somerset has a similar origin, although Reaney derives that name also from Beorhtelm, its earliest form was *Briston* in 1149, followed by *Brightelmston* in 1199.

Charles F. T frost

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Mr. T frost, while this note was awaiting publication.

**NO ABSOLUTION**

In *Newsletter* No. 11, the Editor, after noting that the stamped bricks associated with Charles Dawson were forgeries, added, that in the matter of Piddington Man, Dawson may have been an innocent victim. No such absolution can be vouchsafed for ‘Copy of a Map of the Maresfield Forge in 1724’. This appeared in SAC 55 (1912) and later in Straker’s *Wealden Iron* (1931), p.401.

The original has never been produced (nor, indeed, has the Ashburnham clock — see SNO, vol.1, p. 62). In fact, the map shows the impossible, the ‘never-was’ and three major anachronisms.

Barges are shown up to the Maresfield (hammer) forge on the minor stream called the Maresfield Ouse. Navigation entailed two vertical climbs of over six feet at or near Shortbridge Mill Pond and at the old Forge Pond by the Powdermills. The matter of getting a canoe along the higher reaches would be a major difficulty. Better carry the canoe.

The *Horace and Barge Inn* first appears in the Uckfield Rates Books in 1725, a hundred years after the date maps show it; it was undoubtedly built after the Upper Ouse Navigation Scheme of 1790 — for the barges.

Evidence for the Powdermills is as yet confined to the date 1840 on, from licensing to bankruptcy (see SAT/AB/940—6 (1849—59) ), to the Villiers-Shelley plaque on the Powdermills Cottages with the date 1850 — the previous cottages were called the ‘Forge Cottages’ and to the appearance of the mill in the Maresfield Rate Book in 1852. This is over 125 years later than Dawson shows it.

The forge was originally at the Powdermills site as is proved by the forge cinder and documents. Dawson showed it shifted halfway towards the Maresfield Cornmill. In fact, Budget, in his accredited map of 1724, shows it where Dawson put it; Bowen followed Dawson used it. However, there is no sign of Wealden Iron activity here: no cinder, charcoal of bit. But Dawson piled Felton upon Ossa: he placed a blast furnace on top of the hill, 25ft. above the ‘forge’, on the southern edge of Furnace Bank Wood. One pond could have water-powered forge and furnace but the bay would have been about 600’ long; the pond would have drowned the cornmill, the cottagers on Butleets Common and probably the king’s highway. Even if the ‘forge’ was shifted, the blast-furnace alone is enough to condemn the map, indeed, Buxted/WIRG team found the furnace giving the name Furnace Bank in a little valley in the wood: pond, bay, charcoal and slag.

What of the lock shown just above the actual poundlock of the Upper Ouse Navigation Company? Certainly, two sets of ruins exist. Observers, in 1966, claimed to have found the Dawson ‘lock’ in its soggy bed on the line of the old canal — the cut to Shortbridge. It is silted up in its lower 200’. In fact, the ruined ‘Dawson lock’ is probably the remains of a carriageway for an outlying field of Sharp’s farm. Any obstruction to the newbies of 1790 would have been destroyed.

Alternatively, before the canal was dug, the stream meandered here — as old maps show — and this explains the outlier. A lock on the old stream would have been off the line of the canal where the ruins are said to be.

There are other discrepancies: the writer has a longer, referenced article with maps and Grid references.

Joseph Pettitt

**BERWICK CHURCH**

In Nain and Pevsner’s *Sussex* (The buildings of England, 1965), p. 414, referring to the church, there is a sentence, ‘... But the church has suffered much at the hands of the restorer of 1865.’ Professor Pevsner, however, was not the first to lament the quality of the restoration.

Miss Margaret E. Ade, of Wartling, recently showed the writer of this note a copy of a short poem by Charles Ade, his great-grandfather, written in letter form to Mark Antony Lower. Miss Ade has kindly given permission for the poem to be published. It reads:
Milton Court
Alfriston 28th Oct. 1856

My dear friend,

Alas! Alas! Oh dear, what do you think,
Now makes me take in hand my pen and ink
Tis Berwick Church you know the building well
So now my reverence I to you will.
The ancient stone once lined with shining brass
Is now extended on the churchyard grass
Where mail and chisel, will obliterate
All sign, or symbol, of its ancient date;
It must be tooled, so says the Architect
(I envy not ye man his intellect)
Antiquity it seems he does not prize
But rather 'tis offensive to his eyes
Could you suppose the curious ancient tomb
Would meet with such a very sorry doom
I do dislike such woful (sic) desecration
And 'tis to me a sore vexation
But as the case I wen cannot be cured
It like more woes and worse must be endured.

With kind regards to Irs, Lower and yourself Believe me
Yrs very truly
Chas. Ade

M.A. Lower Esq.
Copy sent.

Mark Antony Lower was one of the founders of the Sussex Archaeological Society in 1846 and Charles Ade was one of its early members, for his name appears in the list published in S.A.C. vol 1 (1848) to which volume he contributed a paper.

In subsequent years, several more papers and notes on a variety of archaeological subjects are to be found in our Collections A photo-stat of this letter, or poem, will be placed in the Society's Library.

E.W. Holden

BRAMBER
TQ 192106

(See Newsletter No. 14, p.58)

A final C 14 date has been obtained from Harwell of wood from adjacent to the bridge, which is 1090 ± 80 years (HAR-560). Archaeologically, the piles were considered to be of about the time of the building of Bramber Castle. A date between 1010 and 1170 AD is, therefore, satisfactory.

E.W. Holden

ON LOAN

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society have
(a) a Resistivity Meter
(b) a tape recording of reminiscences of Past Presidents of the Society
which they are prepared to allow bona-fide archaeological societies or groups to have a loan, free of charge, for limited periods. Those interested should contact Mr. K. Goodchild, C. Eng., M.I.E.E., 17, Fairview Rise, Westdene, Brighton BN1 SGL (Tel: 507613).


It is regretted, because of pressure on space, it has not been possible to include this important work of reference in the current issue of Newsletter; the Bibliography will be made available to members as soon as possible.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY NEAR CHICHESTER

Between 28th December, 1974 and 3rd January, 1975, a group of students from the University of London with members of the Worthing Archaeological Society took part in a field survey on the Coastal Plain east of Chichester. The aim of this survey (sponsored by the London Institute of Archaeology and the Sussex Archaeological Society) was to test the archaeological potential of the Plain; an area of Sussex that has been strangely neglected by rural field archaeologists in the past.

The results seem to show clearly that the area was no less intensively exploited before historical times than it has been since the beginning of the detailed record keeping which has earned the Plain a prominent position in studies of medieval farming.

Sites of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval date were located. In fact the very intensity of settlement would seem to be responsible for a legacy of a notably fragmentary surface record of past human activities. This problem was highlighted by two parcellular instances. In one case, a dense spread of Roman pot and tile fragments west of Tangmere (SU 899064) appeared to cease abruptly at a north-south line through the field; reference to Yeakell and Gardner’s map of 1776 shows this line to have been until relatively recently the division between pasture and arable. The other case was a feature exposed in a pipe-trench (SU 923048), which contained the only significant group (though unstratified) of prehistorically pottery found (including the rim of an Iron Age saucepan pot with curvilinear decoration, and about half a pot with prominently ribbed concave sides and a gently convex base – present without any close parallels.) There can be no doubt that this group would not have survived but for its deposition below the plough-zone.

Clearly the Costal Plain has much to offer in terms of our understanding of past human settlement in Sussex. Field surveys such as this one, together with excavation would seem to be the essential complementary tools of research. Plans are currently underway to conduct a trial excavation of a threatened Iron Age site near Bognor. It is hoped that this will remedy the ironic situation in which no stratified groups of pre-Roman pottery have been published from an area where a tribal capital is thought to have existed. Meanwhile, the need for a field-walk on an intensive scale can be seen as an urgent rescue requirement, before ploughing finally wipes the slate clean.

Michael W. Pitts

BISHOP ROBERT SHERBURNE AND CLAPHAM MANOR HOUSE

It was interesting to read the communication in Newsletter No. 14 from the secretary of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, about Clapham Manor house, a one-time possession of Robert Sherburne, Bishop of Chichester (1508-36). More is known about Sherburne’s connection with Clapham, however, than the secretary, Mr. E.E.F. Smith allows.

It has long been known that Sherburne used the manor house when visiting Westminster. His episcopal registers (West Sussex County Record Office, Ep. 1/1/4-5), although not an infallible guide to his whereabouts, record his presence there in July 1514, at various dates between 24 April and 6 August 1523, and in October 1526.

The gift of the manor and its members to the Ireland family, recited in John Worsopp’s will, probably took place shortly after this last visit, since Sherburne very seldom came to London after it. He was certainly never actively engaged in the business of the King’s divorce as Mr. Smith suggests. In April 1529 he was questioned by Cardinal Wolsey about the bulls of dispensation which he had obtained from the Pope, some 20 years earlier, to enable Henry to marry Catherine, and stated that since then he had ‘intermedlyd no farther in that matter’. (British Library, Ms. Cotton Vitellius B. XII fols. 63v., and there seems no reason to doubt this assertion. Sherburne was sympathetic to Catherine’s cause (PRO, SP. 1/93 fos. 67, 71), but took no part in the crucial sessions of Parliament and Convocation after 1526.

The Clapham property was in the hands of the Ireland family by 1531 when a letter from the wife of George Ireland (the same as the Thomas of John Worsopp’s codicil?) to Sherburne, about it, was used in the binding of a statute book (West Sussex County Record Office, Cap. 1/14/4a fos. 61). Another letter of similar date (British Library, Add.Ms. 34317 fo. 40) seems to indicate that the Irelands also acquired the advowson of the church at Clapham, and that, after the death of his father William and mother Joan, George leased the manor to John Worsopp and asked him for an entry fine of 100 marks. The property may have originally been given to William Ireland by Sherburne in recognition of his services to the bishop in the purchase and administration of property outside Sussex (West Sussex County Record Office, Cap. 1/14/4a fo. 54).

John Worsopp, the lessee of the Clapham property, had also been one of Sherburne’s tenants, being a bailiff of the see of Chichester’s London estates during the latter part of his episcopate. He was apparently on good terms with the bishop, and spent Christmass in Sussex with him in most years. In 1527, however, he and his wife were unable to make this visit, and Worsopp wrote to Sherburne to tell him of the difficult time he had had with his wife as a result. He wrote that he and his wife had ‘frowning and lasting’ the cause she might be with you... and daily she threateneth and mannefisith me... so I live in dread and fear that I cannot wakke when I am asleep and when I am full I cannot eat. And in paynne I endure... but am astonished to recover without your mercy’ (British Library, Add. Ms. 3417 fo. 2). Such was Tudor humour!

S.J. Lander