ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, 14th May, in Lewes Town Hall Council Chamber, which was filled to capacity.

In his farewell address, the retiring President, Dr. Francis Steer, quietly and eloquently recalled many changes; including the spectacular developments in archaeology since 1945 which had owed much to the enthusiasm engendered by the television appearances of the late Sir Mortimer Wheeler. He observed that archaeology had become a precise science. He considered that the Society had much of which to be proud; expressed his appreciation of those who went quietly about the many duties of administration; thanked all the officers of the Society and offered a warm welcome to new comers. At the conclusion of the meeting, thanks were given to Dr. Steer for his sterling work during his term of office, was recorded.

In her fluent and charming manner, Miss Murray presented the Report and noted that the most important event of the year had been the amalgamation of the Society and Trust, for the accomplishment of which, the Society was much indebted to Mr. Fisher. She remarked that, despite the inevitable rise in subscriptions, a surplus had been recorded, and she urged members to redouble their efforts to encourage others to join. In reporting the deaths of several distinguished members, she paid tribute to the late Mrs. Suckling. Wilson thanked the members for their contribution to a hand-distribution of the Newsletter. He thanked members for their contribution to the presentation of the accounts, Mr. Fisher explained that he was unable to give a satisfactory result and considered the future to be bright. Miss Murray was then elected the 38th President of the Society and the first lady to hold the office since Lady Leconfield in 1931. She said that she was deeply sensible of the honour and that she could only reiterate the words of Queen Victoria, “I will be good”.

The other officers were then elected. Col. Wilbe-Jones having intimated that, because of ill-health, he would not be seeking re-election as Hon. Secretary, it was agreed that this office should be left vacant for the time-being. Mr. L.S. Lelliott and Dr. P.H. Brandon were re-elected, respectively, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Editor.

The Meeting then took place for the election of the Council of 12 members. Previously, the Council had consisted of 24 members and the creation of the smaller Council was facilitated by a number of former members who, unselfishly, did not seek election. The new Council comprised: A.G. Aldworth, Dr. C.E. Brent, Mr. P.L. Drewett, Mr. J.H. Farrant, Mr. L.R. Fisher, Mr. W.E. Godfrey, Mr. G.A. Holleyman, Mrs. M. Holt, Mrs. M. Rule, Mr. K.W. Suckling and Mr. C.F. Tebbutt*.

The Auditors, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Cook were re-elected.

In the discussion which took place under “Other Business”, several points were raised, the answers to which gave satisfaction; and members who were not present at the Meeting may be interested in knowing that, in reply to one question, Mr. Dickens confirmed that, at present, the Barbican would accept deeds from both East and West Sussex and that a similar arrangement was being entered into for the purposes of the latter except collections which were entirely to do with West Sussex; and that no deeds were likely to be transferred in the near future.

After the Meeting, it was discovered that, through an error in the vote, Mr. V.B. Lamb had been incorrectly declared to have been elected, since Mr. J.H. Farrant had secured a greater number of votes. At the first Council meeting after the A.G.M., in mitigation of this unfortunate error, Mrs. Lamb was invited to be a co-opted member, and accepted the invitation.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS
Some members have not yet amended their Bankers Orders to the subscription rate introduced on 1st January, 1976. They are, therefore, two years in arrears with the outstanding balances of their subscriptions. In the circumstances, it is regretted that the 1976 volume (1) can only be despatched to those members when payment is received.

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
Volume 114. It is hoped that this volume will be distributed during the next few weeks. The majority of those in Sussex will be delivered by hand, through the kindness of volunteers who are undertaking this task.

Volume 115. This is to be an extra issue and will be devoted to the extremely important excavation carried out by Mr. Martin Bell, B.Sc., over a period of six years at Rookery Hill, Bishopstone. The volume will be available to members at a reduced price; details and order form will be circulated in due course.

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE 1977
Owing to difficulty in finding suitable accommodation for this year’s Conference, building alterations to Priory School, Lewes being in progress, there has been some delay in finalising arrangements. At the time of going to press, these are not quite complete but it is hoped to include the programme and details in a slip with this Newsletter. The date will be 15th October and the venue, Haywards Heath College.

EDITOR’S NOTES
We congratulate Mrs. Rule, Curator of Fishbourne Roman Palace and Council member on having received, this year, the Triton Trophy, awarded annually by the British Sub-Aqua Club to the Sub-Aqua Diver of the Year. Mrs. Rule received the award for her work in underwater archaeology. The event was marked by her appearance in the television programme “South Today” on 1st April.

On the afternoon of 7th June, Jubilee Day, the Ringmer and Lewes Young Farmers organised, in the grounds of Lewes Castle, the Silver Jubilee Folk Festival. The display of Sussex Arts and Crafts, held between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., attracted a large audience from whom, in normal admission charges, £154.15 was received by the Society; in the evening, when the castle was floodlit, further entertainment was provided by the Young Farmers, in the form of Folk Music and Dance.

At the South of England Show, Ardingly, the Society again mounted a stall. Notwithstanding the generally inclement weather, the Show had an even greater attendance than that of the previous year. The Society venture was again a success, a substantial number of new members being enrolled and much useful publicity observed. We are much indebted to Captain Wigg, who not only organised, but devised the stall, and to the members who kindly served it during the three days of the Show.

On Saturday, 25th June, at the Sussex Fayre at Ote Hall School, Haywards Heath, the Society again provided a stall, which was both organised and manned by Captain Wigg. The event, as usual, was well attended, but the miserable weather precluded the great increase in numbers over the previous year which had been expected to come to see the aerial Tight Rope artists and the motor-cycle acrobats team. The Society’s stall did not attract the attention that it had aroused last year and, although there was interest in what the Society had to sell, there was little in becoming a member of the Society.

The Editor is most grateful to the many Societies, both within, and at the borders of Sussex, who regularly send him a copy of their Newsletter, Bulletin or other periodical. These journals are always carefully read and then passed to the Library at Barbican House so that members may have the opportunity to peruse them. It will be appreciated that, with constraints of space and time, it is not always possible to give, in Newsletter, the space that some items may deserve, although every effort is made to do so. He hopes that copies of these periodicals may continue to reach him. The Editor is also pleased to receive from any member, or affiliated Society, items on relevant topics which they believe to be of interest; and he is always glad to give advice if he is able.
DRY VALLEY PROJECT

Excavators on the chalk are becoming increasingly aware of how little precise information we have about the character of prehistoric soils and the extent of erosion during the prehistoric and historic periods. Hilltop sites appear to have been fairly extensively eroded by both natural solution and ploughing. Valley sites, on the other hand, show a much greater thickness of Pleistocene sediment overlain by late Holocene deposits. At the same time, prehistoric farmers and other communities appear to have been one of the main causes of erosion of the downland soils and the accumulation of sediment in valleys. Despite the relevance of dry valley sediments to the archaeology of the Downs, no scientific excavations have yet been undertaken to investigate them, and this is what is proposed.

It is essential that such a study be conducted in areas where the prehistoric settlement pattern is well known as a result of intensive fieldwork, that it is possible to compare the depth and nature of these sediments to the archaeology of the Downs. No published sites have yet been identified. The study area comprises the parishes of Chilgrove, West Dean, Stoughton and the Mardens, situated approximately six miles north of Chichester (Noviomagus Regnensium). The project is divided into two parts, as follows.

Phase 1 (to be completed by early 1978) An evolution of the landscape study, tracking the changes in the ecology of the region from prehistoric to Roman times. This is in course of preparation by Mrs. Ruth Tittensor, M.A., and in final draft. It will be supplemented by a gazetteer of all known sites, field boundaries, etc., covering, as far as possible, the same time-span as the ecological report. The information is being collated on maps by Fred Allen, Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer for West Sussex County Council. The Gazetteer and the landscape study will form the background to the excavation reports on three Roman villas at Chilgrove and Upmarden, which are in course of preparation.

Phase 2 (to be completed by 1981) The landscape study will be extended to cover the period from c.400 A.D. to the twelfth century. At the same time, special attention will be paid to the origins of the villages within the study area, to see if it is possible to trace the earliest Saxo-Polish settlements. This is regarded as vital to our understanding of the immediate post-Roman period in nearby Chichester.

Alec Down.

Director of Excavations. Chichester Excavations Committee

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION, LITTLEHAMPTON MUSEUM A collection of pottery, flints and other objects had been stored at Littlehampton Museum, within an outhouse which, for several years, had not been weatherproof. In October 1976, the material was removed and placed in new boxes and is now stored in the attic of the present building in River Road. The accompanying list is a preliminary record of the material by site, although some is unprovenanced. The material is listed by box and is in course of preparation by Mrs. Ruth Tittensor, M.,A., and is in final draft. This will be supplemented by a gazetteer of all known sites, field boundaries, etc., covering, as far as possible, the same time-span as the ecological report. The information is being collated on maps by Fred Allen, Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer for West Sussex County Council. The Gazetteer and the landscape study will form the background to the excavation reports on three Roman villas at Chilgrove and Upmarden, which are in course of preparation.

G. F. Aldworth, Archeologist, West Sussex County Council.

EXCAVATIONS 1977 University of London Institute of Archaeology, Sussex Archaeological Field Unit.

Steyning, Tenyard Lane. In February and March, an area scheduled for redevelopment, west of Steyning parish church, was excavated. The slopes to the south and west of the church are probably the site of the documented late-Saxon town and postal site and had at one time become an orchard, so that there was no stratification. The features included late-Saxon to fourteenth-century pits and post-holes, of which one group contained a bronze flagon. An area of twelfth-century, or earlier, cobbling produced a small pair of iron shears, whetstone and quernstone fragments and a bun-shaped loomweight.

D. J. Freke.

FORTHCOMING & CURRENT EXCAVATIONS (The following is a list of all excavations etc. which have been notified since the publication of the last Newsletter. In all cases, volunteers are urgently needed.)

Crawley and Mid-Sussex Archaeological Group

Ifield Water Mill

Director: Mr. G. Gibson-Hill.

Daily until further notice.

This splendid example of a weatherboard water mill, which replaced an iron-working forge destroyed by Waller's troops during the Civil War, has been derelict and in danger of collapse before the present rescue operation began in 1974. It is hoped that the restoration will be completed this year. In the next two seasons, the timber structure has been repaired and the exterior weatherboard replaced, where necessary, and repainted. In addition, the wheelpace and pond have been cleared of silt. The water wheel and machinery, however, still need to be refurbished. Work is being
Carried out under the joint supervision of Mr. E. W. Henley and Mr. J. Gibson-Hill. Volunteers should either contact the Director at Mill Cottage, Rupser Road, Ifield, near Crawley (Tel: Crawley 360108) or introduce themselves on site at Millfield, Rupser Road, Ifield. Staff are present from 9 a.m.--5 p.m. throughout the week. It is not possible, at present, to welcome the casual visitor.

Director: Mr. J. Gibson-Hill. Daily until further notice.

An intense multi-period field survey of an area to the west and north of Gatwick Airport is currently taking place in advance of building development. Additional volunteers are urgently needed to augment closely supervised teams of field walkers. Personal transport would be helpful though not essential and limited funds are available to offset expenses. Details from the Director at the above address.

Director: E. W. O'Shea. Dates subject to harvesting.

In his 1966 thesis, Dr. Kenneth Barton, referring to the Ringmer face-jug, said, "It is a mystery to us all and Ringmer is a mystery which can only be resolved by excavation". Eleven years later, we are no nearer a solution. Extensive field-walking and other investigations, which have added much to our knowledge, have been carried out over recent years by the Group and it has been decided to excavate the site of what is, almost certainly, a 13th-century kiln. Volunteers, with or without previous experience, will be welcome. Huge quantities of sherds may be expected to provide ample casual work for those interested but unable to dig. Further particulars can be obtained from the Director at 14, Pelham Terrace, Lewes BN7 2DR. (Tel: Lewes 236460). This will be the second season.

University of London
Institute of Archaeology
Sussex Archaeological Field Unit
Chancellor Ring
Hill Fort and Temple Site
Early Iron Age
Romano-British
Hartfield parish
Pottery Kiln
Post-Medieval
Harting Beacon
Hill Fort
Early Iron Age

Gatwick Wealden Field Survey
Multi-period

Lewes Archaeological Group
Ringmer
Pottery Kiln
Medieval

Klin Down,
Beachy Head,
Eastbourne
Dry Valley Project
Prehistoric

WEST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE

Accessions, 1976

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Business Records
Accounts of J. Leng & Sons, of Chichester, cabinet makers, upholsterers and furniture dealers, 1837-1950.

MSS MSS MSS MSS

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The parish church of St. Peter, Preston, contains a number of 13th-century murals which possess some rare features. Unfortunately, in 1906, a disastrous fire destroyed the upper part of these and seriously damaged the remainder. Some, like that of the Martyrodom of St. Thomas a Beckett, were recently the subject of examination by Mr. E. Clive Rouse, so eminent in this field of restoration and conservation. A short account of the work commenced on one wall, with splendid results, and funds were found to complete that work; but, for the treatment of the remainder, very much more money is required. Mr. Rouse has reported "... the paintings are of a quite unusually high quality and interest, owing to their original and iconographic content ... it is quite clear from the results shown in our test areas that the paintings cannot be conserved (if they are not, they will deteriorate further) and that an acceptable appearance can be produced. I urge that an appeal be made to raise funds for the conservation of these important medieval works.

Contributions will be received gratefully by Miss Margery C. Roberts, Hon. Secretary P.C.C., Flat 25, Park Manor, London Road, Brighton BN1 6YP. Cheques should be made out to Preston Parish Church (murals).

WEST BLATCHINGTON WINDMILL

There has been a windmill on this hill-top site since the eighteenth century and the existing one, set high upon the remainder of a group of flint-built barns is of nineteenth-century date. It was still working in the first decade of this century and, thereafter, the old buildings, in company with cottages, church and manor-house of flint, ranged about the village ponds, formed a picturesque group, standing in isolation with their trees, on the bare Downland. However, damage by fire to the great barn and the destruction of the village during the recent war of Hove, left the mill and its surviving barn buildings standing, somewhat forlornly, on an island site between two roadways of a built-up area. Recently, these buildings have been little used, except for the storage of election equipment.

The family and estate of the Borough of Hove, who own the property, active steps are now being taken to determine whether it is possible for this attractive old mill to be developed as a useful, as well as a visual amenity, and ways and means are being considered which might enable it to "earn its keep". Under the chairmanship of

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of Mr. Michael Ray, Borough Planning Officer, meetings have taken place to which were invited local residents who were known to have special interests or skills which might promote the project. A competent structural survey is a first consideration; then, the possible alternatives, such as a local museum, exhibition centre or centre for wooden windmills, can be thoroughly examined. Such a study, carefully designed and carried out, can be of benefit to all. The formation of a "Friends of West Blatchington Mill" would be consider the possibility of a Friends Milling Trust, working windmill, can be considered. All appropriate contacts are available, including the Editor of the Brighton & Hove News, who is also the Honorary Secretary of this Society's publications. I believe the designer of the scenes was Dawson's collaborator, John Lewis of Maresfield, 1896-1915, member of the Sussex Archaeological Society 1892-1907. The engraver may have been W. W. Lewis Abberline or Richard Gough (1610-1695) of the Tichborne family, Montacute House, Dorset, who was an amateur topographical artist. A full bibliography testifies to the author's own meticulous research. The work is handsomely produced but the illustrations are the most valuable feature. The book is aimed to comment on the text in the light of modern scholarship, to establish Camden's debt to Leland, and to emphasise the survival in the modern landscape and townscape of places, buildings and monuments mentioned by Camden, of which illustrations are early engravings. An introduction sets Camden in the context of Elizabethan antiquarian and topographical studies. A full bibliography testifies to the author's own meticulous research. The illustrations are probably more valuable than the text, and have been considerably reduced in size. The book is available in this edition.

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