THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF SUSSEX by E.W. Holden

In 'A Society Anthology' Dr. P.F. Brandon was not strictly correct in stating that a photographic survey of the county as proposed in a letter to 'The Times' in 1904 did not come to fruition. The Annual Report of our Society for 1903 records that a committee had been appointed to '...arrange for and carry out a survey' in the manner as set out in 'The Times', a Council member and the Society's honorary photographer, Mr. J.C. Stenning, was to be its honorary secretary. The scheme was, however, short lived.

The Survey produced its own First Annual Report, as a four-page leaflet, covering the year ending 31 December 1904, wherein was stated that the Survey was initiated at the Annual Meeting of the Sussex Archaeological Society on 6 March 1904 and that since then, some progress had been made, '...but owing to the very small amount of subscriptions and donations received towards the unavoidable expenses entailed, nothing like the results have been obtained that the Committee hoped for.' The total amount of money received was only £6.17s.6d., made up of forty-five subscribers of 2s.6d. each, plus two donations (£1. and £1). Sixteen persons had promised to cover one or more 3-mile by 2-mile sections of 6in. O.S. maps for photographic purposes, whilst the same number had contributed photographs. Despite the limited funds available, no less than 667 photographs had been acquired during the first twelve months, all of which must have been given, as the expenditure shown in the balance sheet is all for printing, postages and similar expenses. The balance in hand, ready for the work in 1905 was, alas, only eleven pence. A paragraph on similar lines lamenting the inadequacy of donations and subscriptions appears in the Society's Annual Report for 1904. Only 330 photographs had been received by the time that report went to press.

The next reference to the Survey is a terse one in the Society's report for 1906: 'An arrangement has been made during the year whereby the Photographic Branch of the Society's work and the custody of the prints, negatives and slides belonging to it has been committed, until further notice to the Public Library at Brighton.' Nothing more appears to have been recorded in our Collections until the Society's Report for 1929 where the 'Photographic Record and Survey of Sussex' heads the list of Affiliated Societies. Here is stated that the Association was formed by arrangement with the Sussex Archaeological Society in 1907, following a decision made in 1906 that the work could be carried out better by a separate Association in touch with the Society, and that the collection had been transferred to the Public Library, Brighton. The object of the Association '...was to give future generations some idea of the present state of affairs, by photographs of Domestic and other Architecture, Antiquities, Passing Events, Old Maps and other objects of interest in the county.' There was an annual subscription of 2s.6d. and even life membership for £2. It was stated that the collection, which totalled more than 4,000 photographs, negatives, and lantern slides, was open to inspection by members of the Society for illustrating articles or works on the antiquities of the county.

Nothing more is heard of the Association (or Survey) until the publication of our Society's centenary volume in 1946, in 'A History of the Sussex Archaeological Society' written by the late L.F. Salzman. Salzman had been one of the subscribers and a donor of photographs in 1903—4 and he says the idea of such a survey had been broached in 1898, but had not then come to anything, the chief mover being Mr. J.C. Stenning. The reason for the transfer of the photographs, negatives and slides to Brighton appears to be linked with lack of accommodation. Salzman refers to the Society in 1903 having been given notice to quit Castle Lodge, its rented headquarters, by the new owner of that property, Charles Dawson, by midsummer, 1904. In Salzman's own words: 'Mr. Dawson ... was a prominent member of the Society, though not on the Council, and the vendors seem to have believed that he was buying the house on behalf of the Society. The blow was entirely unexpected and naturally caused something like consternation. It was ultimately to prove highly beneficial to the Society, but for the moment the blessing was very thoroughly disguised.' Temporary accommodation was found at 35 High Street and in 1907 Barbican House was purchased, a dignified and worthy headquarters for the Society. There being little storage space at 35 High Street, it was sensible to transfer the collection of photographs etc., to a repository with adequate facilities, viz., Brighton Reference Library.

The late Dr. L.F. Salzman once told the writer that, because of Dawson's somewhat questionable conduct concerning the purchase of Castle Lodge, the Society ignored his 'discoveries' at Piltdown a few years later. This proved to be of some advantage in 1953 when the Piltdown forgery was exposed and reporters descended on Barbican House. Officials and members of the Society, particularly Salzman (who did not wish to be involved), were justly entitled to plead ignorance of the whole affair. A typical example of Salzman's wit, for which he was well known, appears as a footnote in the Centenary volume: 'His (Dawson's) name was later given to the "Pitt Down Man" (Eoanthropus dawsonii), the lowest known form of human being, with the discovery of whose remains he was associated.'

Miss E. Baird of Brighton Reference Library (now administered by East Sussex County Council) kindly informed me that the Photographic Survey's collection consists of about 3,000 positive prints and about the same number of negatives, most of which are glass and are largely the same as the prints; there are probably less than 100 glass lantern slides. Most items appear to date from the opening years of the century; there is an index.
The bulk of the photographs are of churches, manor houses and other architectural subjects, including Brighton buildings, but there are those of a more general nature, including agricultural scenes, ox-carts and ox-ploughing. Other photographs are of early Sussex prints or engravings. Brighton Reference Library houses more photographic collections, the number of prints totalling about 25,000. All are for the use of those engaged in various forms of study and research, especially within the borders of Sussex. The staff of the Library has carried out a great deal of conservation work on the photographs and negatives, including those of the Survey, thus helping to preserve them for posterity.

The Survey has not been entirely forgotten by our Society, for a small sum of money attributable to the Sussex Photographic Record and Survey appeared in the accounts of the Sussex Archaeological Trust for 1943 and subsequent balance sheets, even as recently as 1976.

Following the deposition of the Survey's collection in Brighton in 1906 caused by problems at the time, our Society has since built up its own separate and continually expanding collection of black-and-white photographs and lantern slides, including many of archaeological excavations conducted by the late Dr. E. Cecil Curwen and others. These are kept in the Library at Barbican House and suitable additions will always be welcomed.

The value to Sussex studies and records by donating to the Society colour transparencies (and colour positive photographs) was brought to the notice of members in 1972 by our member, Mr. N. Caplan. It is to be hoped that this scheme will receive the support necessary to make it a worthwhile proposition. Thus, the objects and aspirations of the early-twentieth century photographic pioneers will be continued and augmented. Photography is much easier today with fully automatic cameras available, compared with the heavy plate cameras, tripods and fragile glass plates of many years ago.

References
2. Ibid., vol. 47 (1904), p. xvi
3. Ibid., vol. 50 (1907), p. xvi
4. Ibid., vol. 50 (1907), p. xvii
5. Ibid., vol. 71 (1930), p. xiv
6. Ibid., vol. 85 (1948), pp. 37-8
7. Ibid., p. 38
8. Ibid., p. 38, n.1
9. There should be some dating to the latter part of the nineteenth and even as far back as the 1860's, according to the First Annual Report of 1904, where it is stated: "Some engravings and old prints have also been received, and from old albums kindly lent to the Hon. Secretary, copies have been made of interesting photographs, especially some taken by Dr. Diamond 50 years ago.
11. Newsletter, Nos. 5 and 6 (1972)

THE RELATIONSHIP OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

The whole-day Conference was held on 18th October, 1980 at Priory (Middle) School, Mountfield Road, Lewes, under the Chairmanship of Miss Joan Sheldon, B.Sc.

The first paper was contributed by Martin Bell, B.Sc., who demonstrated, with conviction and excellent slides, the part that valley sediment had to play in our understanding of the prehistoric use of land. He was followed by Dr. Ken Thomas, who showed how land snail studies on the South Downs could be related to Martin Bell's work.

After the lunch interval, Dr. Anne Thorley contributed "Vegetational History of the Chalk" and Ruth Tittensor, M.A., M.Sc., M.I.Biol, "South Downs Woodland" and we were surprised to learn how much of our woodland is planted and managed by man.

The day was concluded by Miss Bryony Orme, B.A., M.Phil., F.S.A., who told of "The Early Exploitation of the Somerset Levels" with the aid of a splendid series of slides. With apt comments, Miss Joan Sheldon brought the proceedings to a close, remarking on the close relationship of the two studies.

As usual, the Conference was well attended and the organiser, Mr. Ken Suckling, is to be congratulated on his choice of speakers and on the smooth-running of the arrangements.

A. Barr-Hamilton

STREATHAM MOATED SITE (TQ 201 137)
by A. Barr-Hamilton

In the six weeks from 26th July to 6th September 1980, after methodically excavating the area since 1968, work was completed.

The sites of the bridges over the moat (12 metres wide) were found. Bridges had crossed the moat at three periods, during the second period by a footbridge, probably consisting of planks only. A horseshoe, discovered on the earliest lint footings, may give an interesting date for the latest use of those footings.

A section, taken through the moat (2 metres) revealed no pottery and only a few oyster shells and an iron implement, the purpose of which has yet to be determined. A small scatter of green-glazed pottery (14th-century) was found at the lowest level of Dents at the junction of the bridge and the east bank and a fragment of a bung-hole pitcher (15th-century) at the highest. It is probable that the timbers of the bridges were removed for use elsewhere and the moat cleaned out regularly.

A special word of thanks is due to the Sussex Archaeological Society, whose financial support enabled this long protracted excavation to be brought to a successful conclusion.

SAXON IRONWORKING SITE ON ASHDOWN FOREST
by C.F. Tebbutt

In April 1980 the laying of the Mid-Sussex Water Company's new pipeline from Horsted Keynes to Blackhills, Ashdown Forest, was being watched. When the initial topsoiling trench, 4m wide and c.30cm deep, was crossing heathland north of Nutley (TQ 441296) an ironworking site was revealed. This consisted of three hearths and a slag heap. An emergency dig was organised by Wealden Iron Research Group over one weekend and members were able to excavate and record as much of the site as was affected by the pipeline.

It is considered that it comprised a bowl smelting hearth, a re-heating hearth and a possible ore roasting hearth. A most unusual feature was the use of flint pebbles in the furnace as part of the charge; much splintered flint occurred in the slag. A small amount of primitive pottery was also found.

Although only a few days elapsed before the final pipe trench destroyed the site, samples for archaeomagnatic dating were taken by the D.o,E. and have given a 9th century A.D. date for the site. This appears to be the first authenticated Wealden iron smelting site of the Saxon period.
NEW FINDS IN CHICHESTER

by Alec Down

Work on the Cattlemarket site has continued throughout the summer on the earliest layers dating to mid 1st century. A large defensive ditch, 8 metres wide and 2.5 metres deep has been found below the north-west corner of the site. It is similar in profile to the one found below the St. Pancras Roman cemetery in 1966 and may well be another 'leg' of the same feature. A preliminary examination of the pottery from the fill suggests that it might date from late Flavian times and it could be the earliest defence for the newly established civitas capital.

A further section is to be cut across it during the next six months, with the aid of a grant from the Manpower Services Commission who are financing a small Work Experience Scheme for 4 young people and a Supervisor.

New services being laid by the Gas Board and the Water Company in West and South Streets have revealed the following features:

In West Street: a large stone gutter ran east-west along the north side outside the Post Office. This had a large sandstone kerb abutting it on the north side and north of this again, extending up Chapel Street, compacted gravel with a 'screed' of pink mortar on the top, probably the building for stone paving slabs, now robbed out.

In South Street: at the north end a line of large sandstone blocks set in pink mortar ran northwards towards the Cross.

The discoveries in West Street are certainly related to a large public building, probably the one reputed to lie below the Dolphin & Anchor. The vexed question of where the Forum is has not been settled beyond all doubt, but it is likely to lie north of the Dolphin and to the east of the large building previously located below North Street.

East Marden

Trial trenching on the site of a possible pagan Saxon cemetery failed to discover any more burials, but a ditch was found, aligned north-south which contained Iron Age and Roman pottery in the upper fill. It is possible that the skeletons found 50 years ago were buried in the top of the ditch and that the cemetery lies further down the slope of the hill. More work will be carried out next year to follow this up and to try and trace the settlement associated with the ditch.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY, WEST CHILTINGTON
Sylvia Saunders-Jacobs.

From 'The Bookshop', Storrington £1.00 postage extra, or Mrs. S. Saunders-Jacobs, Firlands, The Common, West Chiltington, Pulborough, West Sussex. £1.15 post free

It is a pity that Mrs. Saunders-Jacobs has been so modest in her title. At a casual glance, her booklet of 25 pages and 11 photographs might seem to be another of the rather pedestrian guides for which one puts money in a box in many Sussex churches. In pleasant contrast, this one is really a record of the church in the setting of West Chiltington village. It therefore includes some account of the rectory and the school, and as much of the personal life of the rectors and patrons as the author has been able to research. As regards the church itself, for instance, she traces the local sources of the stone used in its building.

West Chiltington church is rightly famed for its mediaeval murals, and on this subject the writer is at her most informative. She tells us something of the history and evolution of church murals, how they were done and, most interestingly, which colours could have come from the local ironstones, namely the reds, yellows and browns, with the greens as expensive imports. The writer's scholarship is best exemplified by her research, unfortunately to no definite conclusion, on the recently discovered small detached mural described as a Solomon's Knot or Swastica Pelta. This design occurs widely in pre-Christian art, and examples can be found in the Bignor and Chilgrove Roman villas and at Fishbourne Roman Palace. The subject of the design is fully explained, with a probably attribution to the 13th or 14th century at West Chiltington.

We are perhaps too prone to dismiss all Victorian church restoration as spoiling, or at least unsympathetic. A careful scrutiny by the writer of all the records of what was done at West Chiltington church show that restoration was done carefully, with all replacements matching the original, and the murals were safeguarded.

If one has a criticism of this admirable little booklet it is that although a number of other books and articles relating to the parish are mentioned in the text they are unfortunately not referenced.

C.F. Tebbutt

A SHORT HISTORY OF SUSSEX
John Lowerson

Dawson Publishing, Cannon House, Folkestone, Kent. Price £10

This is a penetrating social history of the County, covering every period from the first appearance of Man about the year 6000 B.C., down to the Military activities of the Second World War, and beyond.

The invaders of the early years, whether they be Belgae, Roman, Saxon, Norman or French, are presented as people against their particular background; special emphasis is given to the study of medieval life as seen through the eyes of a peasant, still bound to the Lord of the Manor with numerous and exacting services to perform, and every use has been made of documents to illustrate the complexity of his working life.

As villages were upgraded to small towns so building techniques advanced, and the author relates the growing importance of the yeoman farmer, and the emergence of a class of 'lesser gentry', to the buildings they constructed. It is, however, a pity that the myth of the 'Long-house', as the prototype of Sussex Vernacular, has been perpetrated, for this was never so.

This section of the book has been meticulously researched and presents the various stages of colonization and cultures with clarity and interest, but it is in the subsequent chapters, covering the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries that the political and social history is recounted with such excellence. The final study covers not only the two World Wars but brings Sussex history right up to date with a careful analysis of the environment and society in which we now live.

There is a very comprehensive bibliography for further 'in-depth' study, and although the book is somewhat slanted towards the specialist it will still be an essential for the Local Historian.

Margaret Holt
The earthenwares made in post-mediaeval Sussex had much in common with other regional English pottery, but the special characteristics of form and decoration by which we identify traditional Sussex pottery did not assert themselves until the middle eighteenth century. Thereafter for almost two hundred years that combination of robust shape and rich golden glaze shew a fitness for the job that is wholly pleasing. These wares were the product of small workshops, often in the same families for generations, that supplied the commonplace domestic needs of cottage and farmhouse in their locality: occasionally they made exuberant commemorative pieces too.

Until recently 'brownware' had not excited much attention, and what little there was in print on the subject appeared in magazines published in the early years of the century. Now, following on last year's comprehensive exhibition at Hove Museum, comes the book that lovers of Sussex Pottery have long been waiting for.

Two very informative opening chapters are by far the best account of the wares and the work of the Sussex potter that has yet appeared. Of the eight essays on the history of East Sussex workshops, that devoted to the Norman family of Chailey is outstanding in its wealth of information gleaned from talking to surviving craftsmen. One yearns to know the story of West Sussex potteries in equal depth.

One small quibble is the all too brief reference to lead poisoning. How this was overcome deserves a chapter to itself. As early as 1899 a Home Office enquiry resulted in legislation so that, with financial inducement, the lead content of glaze was reduced ten-fold in four years; in fact by 1905 some Burlem works had stopped using lead altogether.

The maps throughout are admirably clear and large and the numerous excellent photographs, which happily are on the same page as their relevant text, show a good balance of the domestic and the decorative wares, though not all are dimensioned. The Gazetteer of potteries is a most useful guide for future research workers.

John Manwaring-Baines is the author of numerous studies of antiquities in Sussex especially of Hastings where, as the former curator of the museum, he had care of the finest of all collections of Sussex pottery. Judith Fisher is a potter whose contribution to this book is far greater than the modest credit claimed. She has brought to it a great deal of original research and, as well as editing the whole, she was responsible for selecting the excellent photographs. As she writes 'this is a pioneer work and cannot be exhaustive' one hopes it will inspire many other lovers of traditional Sussex pottery to join in the apt refrain 'Ha Ha Ha, you and me, little brown jug, don't I love thee'.

A strange likeable character, Turner was widely read and intelligent, with powers of observation often dimmed by 'being in liquor' so his footsteps are 'often devious and erratic' and his sense of humour completely lacking. Perhaps during the last years of the Diary they became steadier: - Dec. 9th. "After dinner my footsteps are often devious and erratic" and his sense of humour completely lacking. Perhaps during the last years of the Diary they became steadier: - Dec. 9th. "After dinner my footsteps are often devious and erratic" and his sense of humour completely lacking.

A.V. Sheppard

As the ranks of the genealogists swell, both the beleaguered archivist and the family historian himself will welcome the appearance of these publications, aimed, from different sides of the searchroom desk, not only at educating the customer in the basics of ancestor-hunting but also at the widening of his horizons.

Peter Wilkinson's excellently produced booklet does not purport to be a guide for genealogists in general (although it contains much for the general reader) but is designed specifically for the user of the West Sussex Record Office at Chichester. The introduction comprises a series of essays on different sources of information including not only the obvious testamentary and vital registration but also sections on emigrants, persons in special occupations, landowners and gentry. Two handlists chart the availability of original parish registers and bishops' transcripts (noting whether microfilm, transcript or index is available) and of registers of non-conformist and catholic churches, cemeteries, vaccinations and school admissions. A map of East and West Sussex shows ancient parishes and (with a slight inaccuracy) probable jurisdictions before 1858. It seems churlish to criticise so obviously useful a book but the following minor mistakes should be corrected in a future edition: there was no Public Record Office in which non-conformist registers could be deposited in 1840; they came to Chancery Lane from the Registrar General's office fairly recently. The statement that most lawyers attend Oxford or Cambridge until the mid 19th century is almost the reverse of the truth; unfortunately Foster's list of members of Gray's Inn (the inn of court usually attended by Sussex men) was printed in an edition of 200 none of which (to this reviewer's knowledge) is available in either county. The sources included do perhaps concentrate inordinately on the upper echelons of society eschewing the poor and the criminal whose activities are in some ways equally well documented.

While the Genealogists' Guide describes sources to the searcher, Michael Burchall's four publications actually bring them to him in the form of indexed transcripts which, apart from a mistaken adherence to the quaintly variable forms of Christian names, are accurate and easy to use.

Both the size and social diversity of the Brighton dissenting community are illustrated by Brighton Presbyterian Registers; occupations from bricklayer to banker are represented and the congregation is drawn from as far afield as Warminghurst and Wartling. A good introduction is based on Neil Caplan's work. The promised publication by the Group of all the non-conformist registration but also sections on emigrants, persons in special occupations, landowners and gentry. Two handlists chart the availability of original parish registers and bishops' transcripts (noting whether microfilm, transcript or index is available) and of registers of non-conformist and catholic churches, cemeteries, vaccinations and school admissions. A map of East and West Sussex shows ancient parishes and (with a slight inaccuracy) probable jurisdictions before 1858. It seems churlish to criticise so obviously useful a book but the following minor mistakes should be corrected in a future edition: there was no Public Record Office in which non-conformist registers could be deposited in 1840; they came to Chancery Lane from the Registrar General's office fairly recently. The statement that most lawyers attend Oxford or Cambridge until the mid 19th century is almost the reverse of the truth; unfortunately Foster's list of members of Gray's Inn (the inn of court usually attended by Sussex men) was printed in an edition of 200 none of which (to this reviewer's knowledge) is available in either county. The sources included do perhaps concentrate inordinately on the upper echelons of society eschewing the poor and the criminal whose activities are in some ways equally well documented.

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Settlement certificates, the survival of which has depended on the inertia of generations of parish clerks, are an example of a class of record dealing exclusively with the poor. In Eastern Sussex Settlement Certificates the details contained in many hundreds of certificates are calendared and their references given. The introduction gives a brief guide to the statutory provisions governing the removal of paupers and points out the value of these documents to the demographer as well as the genealogist.

The Ridge Family of Sussex consists of an extended pedigree of this family from the early sixteenth century; perhaps the most fascinating aspect is the connection of the Ridges with the medical profession from at least 1748.

In 1662 parliament instituted a tax on hearths and one of the by-products of the legislation was a series of documents (now at the PRO) listing the names of the taxpayers and later of those exempted on account of poverty. The names (over 2000 of them) for Lewes rap are published in Sussex Hearth Tax Assessments with a good introduction by John Farrant (based on Meekings' work); subsequent volumes will cover the rest of the county.

All these publications raise more fundamental questions of access to records than are implied by their titles. Michael Burchall's praiseworthy example should encourage far more genealogists to work for the benefit of others as well as themselves; once a transcript has been done, infinite hours of searching are rendered unnecessary. Peter Wilkinson warns us that most parish registers and many other classes of document will have to be consulted on microfilm to prevent the destruction of the originals by constant use. The Genealogists' Guide also presents a paradox; despite the fact (demonstrated by the volume itself) that archival responsibilities seem to be taken rather more seriously by West Sussex County Council than by their counterparts in the East, opening hours at Lewes are so much more favourable to the searcher.

C.H.C. Whittick

LECTURES 1981

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Jan 16 Roman Chichester — A. Down, F.S.A.
Feb. 15 Anglo-Saxon Sussex — Fred Aldsworth, B.A., F.S.A.
Mar. 6 Conversazione with films — (At Hove Museum)
Mar. 20 Open-Air Museums — F. Gregory
April 10 250 Years of Sussex Mapmaking — K. Leslie


All lectures except that on 6th March 1981, take place in the Sallis Benney Hall, Brighton Polytechnic (Grand Parade) at 7.30 p.m.

SECRETARY: Miss E.W. Garratt, 180 Surrenden Road, Brighton, BN1 6NN

For details of Membership — Annual Subscriptions — Adult Members £3.00, Junior 50p.

LEWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP in conjunction with Sussex Archaeological Society

The first two lectures to be held at Southover Grange, Lewes.

The FINAL lecture to be held in the Lecture Room at Lewes Town Hall.*

Jan. 9 The Stone Axe trade in Britain — fact or myth STEPHEN BRIGGS Royal Commission for Historical Monuments of Wales
Feb. 6 Cheam and the end of the Mediaeval pottery tradition

*Mar. 20 The archeology of the Vikings in England

Lectures will start at 7.30 p.m.

Admission will be free but there will be a silver collection towards lecturers' expenses and the hire of the hall. Coffee will be served in the interval at a small charge.

**FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE**

A COUNTRYMAN'S BRITAIN by Raymond Thomas, T.D., F.R.G.S., F.R.S.A.

This series will consist of 8 lectures of 1½ hours each, to be held on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. commencing 14 January 1981 in the Administration Block of The Roman Palace, Salthill Road, Fishbourne. Telephone: Chichester 785859.

Fee for the series: Non Members — £2.00
Members — FREE

The series will be looking at the British countryside through the eyes of an informed layman who is also an experienced photographer. It will look at the formative processes involved in producing our present landscape; the geology, climate and man himself. It will go on to consider man's monuments: the forts, castles and fortified houses, churches and cathedrals. The English village is looked at as is the village inn and its signs. There will be a survey of vernacular architecture from mediaeval to modern times and the series will conclude with an in depth look at one particular cathedral city.

Each lecture will be liberally illustrated with colour slides.

Bookings should be made in advance to:

The Director, The Roman Palace, Salthill Road, Fishbourne, Nr. Chichester, West Sussex. Telephone: Chichester 785859. Cheques to be made payable to Fishbourne Roman Palace.

**THE EAST GRINSTEAD SOCIETY**

Draft programme

All meetings (except December) are open to non-members, admission free, and take place in the Small Parish Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Jan 21 Miss S.B.S. Pigrome, M.A., LIFE IN MEDIAEVAL TOWNS (illustrated)

Feb. 18 Mr. P.G. Lucas, Danehill Parish Historical Society, THE WORK OF ARTHUR FRANCIS, photographer and around Ashdown Forest at the turn of the century (illustrated)

Mar. 18 Mrs. C. Scott, wife of the agent, HEVER CASTLE: AN AMERICAN VIEW

April 15 B. Johnson, THE WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM (illustrated)

**HISTORICAL CONFERENCE**

The Society's first historical conference 'SUSSEX IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY' will be held on Saturday 4th April at Priory Middle School, Mountfield Road, Lewes, between 11 a.m. and 4.15 p.m. The programme of lectures starts with 'Population Growth and Distribution' by Dr. Sue Farrant followed by —

'Land and Society: the Agricultural Revolution in Perpsective' by Mr. Alan Readman

'The Care of the Rural Poor' — Dr. Emlyn Thomas

'Transport and Trade' — Mr. John Farrant

'Horsham: a county town?' — Dr. Tim Hudson

'The Decline of the Wealden Iron Industry' — Dr. Richard Saville

'Early Eighteenth Century Vernacular Architecture' by Mr. David Martin.

Admission to the conference is by ticket which will be sent on receipt of the conference fee of £1.25 together with a stamped addressed envelope to Dr. Sue Farrant, 36 Brangwyn Drive, Patcham, Brighton BN1 8XD. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Sussex Archaeological Society.

It is hoped that local history societies will bring publications to sell, and if any wish to do so please inform Dr. Farrant before the end of February 1981.

The conference is open to all and it is hoped that it will be well supported and advertised by the Society's members and become an established event.
A town walk part 2, by Dr. Sue Farrant

WALK TO THE NORTH SIDE OF ROYAL YORK BUILDINGS

Look northwards up the Steine which in 1665 was probably rather moist meadow land, and continued to be so in 1760. By 1800 the Winterbourne, which ran down its westerm side was partially contained in a culvert which outfalls just west of the Palace Pier today. In 1800 the area was used for promenades and for drying nets. A circulating library stood by the present entrance to St. James Street and another near to where you are standing now.

The perimeter of the Steine changed considerably in appearance between 1660 and 1800. You are standing in the area which was called Pool Bank in 1660, just north of the Pool. A few cottages stood along it. Looking eastwards you would have seen the backs of cottages in East Street and a few cottages facing on to the Steine. A thouse stood amongst the cottages. East Street continued northwards to just south of where the Pavilion stands, crossing North Street. The lower cottages of North Street would have been visible. North of the town (north of the Pavilion today) North Laine rose behind North Street. North-eastwards and eastwards large arable fields spread towards the skyline, with sheep on downland pasture in the distance. To your East (looking past Forfars) lay Little Laine, at least one windmill and white chalk cliffs (again further forwards than today).

In 1760 the Pool Bank — East Street — Steine — North Street building line was being infilled and the standard and size of house was improving. Dr. Russell’s house was behind you, the Castle Tavern (erected in the late 1740s, purchased by Shergold c.1753) was just visible on the N. side of Castle Square. The view of the fields was little different but fewer people owned and tenanted the land. Three windmills stood in Little Laine, along the cliff top.

In 1800 the area had acquired large town houses, lodgings (either letting rooms or let for the season to a family) and libraries. Russel House was let to visitors, Marlborough House had been remodelled by Robert Adam (in 1787) and had assumed its present appearance, the houses which faced the Steine between Pool Bank and Castle Square had small gardens or enclosures facing the Steine. Castle Square was a fashionable area with the Castle Inn on much of its N. side and north of it, the Pavilion. The road to Lewes now went up the valley and another crossed the Steine to the present St. James Street. The view north and eastwards had changed greatly. Houses (some of which remain) had been built along the perimeter, blocking the view of the fields. At least two of the three windmills had gone from Little Laine due to the demand for the land for building. The outwards spread of Brighton was underway.

WALK WESTWARDS INTO EAST STREET where some of the upper stories of the buildings give an impression of what East Street looked like in 1800. CROSS THE SQUARE SOUTH OF HANNINGTON’S WETHERALL SHOP and go TO BRIGHTON PLACE, STOP IN FRONT OF THE PUMP HOUSE (Forfar’s restaurant).

Look back down towards East Street and you will notice that you are standing on a rise. This area was called the Knabb and in 1660 only a small cluster of cottages stood on it. To the South looking seawards was mostly open space (Bartholomews) on which the Town Hall now stands. In what became Nile Street just south of you stood the vicarage which was possibly a part of the remains of a small priory that stood in the vicinity of Bartholomews presumably until the closure of the monasteries in c.1536 (though possibly closed before then). Even looking west from the Knabb you would have looked across the Hempshares, in which Ship and Black Streets were emerging. Looking northwards St. Nicolas Church was possibly visible over the rooftops of the houses on North Street which lay on the north side of the Knabb.

By 1760 the view was different. The Knabb had acquired more buildings. The view from the Knabb was obscured by buildings. East Street, to the east, Black Lion and Ship Streets to the West, and cottages along the sea front to the south.

By 1800 the Knabb was covered by cottages and had a network of small streets. It had acquired the name Brighton Place. The occupants were poorer people, it was hemmed in on the north and east sides by the prestigious development in North and East Street, and by the completion of infilling in Black Lion Street on the west side. There was a glimpse of the sea down Market Street. Occupants included poulterers, builders and petty trademen.

To appreciate the high density of seventeenth and eighteenth century development, go up into the modern Brighton Place and walk round the side of VASSO’S COFFEE HOUSE, turning left into the lane past Robinsons. Then aim towards Prince Albert Street and the Cricketers’ Inn (walking past Robinson’s Bookshop). COME OUT FACING THE CRICKETERS’ and Black Lion Street and stop. Do not cross over Prince Albert’s Street. Look down the modern Black Lion Street and compare it with the northern part out of which you have just walked... modern road widening has altered this street south of the Cricketers’ very much. Cross over to the Cricketers’ and walk along the cross lane (Black Lion Lane) on its southern side, notice the low houses on the south side. You are now walking in the area of the Hempshares. This was being built on by the later 1500s. Stop in Ship Street, but look down Ship Street Lane which shows how closely packed houses could be and how the cross lanes provided access to houses built behind those that faced the main streets. In Ship Street stand buildings which give an impression of the changes wrought in the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Flint and local brick facades were built as a consequence of rising prosperity either by demolishing the previous edifices or by incorporating them within new structures. Terracing resulted from infilling between existing buildings in order to use the valuable space. Pubs, shops, and lodgings, but of a less expensive type than in the main streets lined Ship, Black Lion and Middle Streets and lawyers were already congregating in Ship Street.

TURN NORTHWARDS AND EMERGE IN NORTH STREET, as you walk northwards notice the variety of later eighteenth and early nineteenth century frontages as in Duke Street on the south side.

North Street experienced very big changes in land use between 1760 and 1800.

In 1660 the street was clearly the agricultural ‘centre’ of the town, although a few barns stood in East and West Streets. The majority of the town’s farms with their barns and crofts stood on the north side of North Street, and another on the south side (under the Clarence Hotel). Malthouses stood on the north side, conveniently located for grain which was brought in from the fields to the barns. The south side of the street was lined with cottages. A well stood in the street approximately north of the Pool Bank. The view of the fields was ittle different but fewer people owned and tenanted the land. Three windmills stood in Little Laine, along the cliff top.

By 1760 the southern side of the street was much more built up, and several hostelries had been established. The Castle Inn graced the southern end, on the northern side (s. of Chapel Royal). North Laine was visible behind the farms.
By 1800 the view was very different. Both sides of the street had been quite extensively redeveloped. Landmarks included the Clarence Inn on the south side, the Pavilion and the pleasure garden called Promenade Grove on the north side at the lower end. The farms had mostly been built over and the modern side streets established (probably by using the boundaries between crofts). The street had become the major coaching centre, and mews for horses were built north of North Street. Behind the street the first houses in Church Street and North Row were up. It was a busy fashionable street with little evidence of its quite recent agricultural role.

By 1800 the town was densely infilled and space was costly. Expansion over the common fields was necessary in order to continue to provide housing and other facilities (e.g. mews) for the use of the visitors.

Few buildings older than c.1780 remain in the old town. Possibly only fragments of buildings pre-date 1760.


SOCIETY NOTICES

WELL DONE WILMINGTON

I am delighted to be able to report that attendances for the year have reached the record figure of 8489. I think this is a reflection of the enthusiasm of Mr. and Mrs. Watts.

The Secretary

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1981

Members are reminded that subscriptions become due on the 1st January 1981, when the new rates, advised earlier in the year, become applicable. For further reference these are as follows —

* Ordinary membership £7.50
* Associate membership £2.50
* Affiliated Societies £4.00
* Institutional £7.50
* Bona fide students (18/21) £4.50
  Junior membership (under 18) £2.00

A free copy of the Sussex Archaeological Collections is issued to these members. If a cloth bound copy is required £3.00 should be added to the subscription.

Bankers Orders — Those members who have not yet made out fresh bankers orders would please do so as soon as possible, otherwise considerable extra work and correspondence is involved. New forms for completion were sent out in the August Newsletter. If mislaid, a copy will be sent on application.

Membership cards - 1981 — In order to save postage, those members who pay by bankers order will receive their 1981 membership cards in the Newsletter at the beginning of April. The 1980 cards will be valid until the 30th of that month.

EXCURSION TO NORWICH

Details of a day trip to Norwich are enclosed with this Newsletter. British Rail have intimated that the maximum number must be 100. Early application should, therefore be made.

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

On the suggestion of one of our members, consideration is being given to the possibility of a reprint of Volumes 2 (1849) and 3 (1850), of the Sussex Archaeological Collections. These issues are more or less unobtainable from antiquarian booksellers and it is known that some members have expressed a wish to maintain a complete set of the volumes. It is, of course, not possible to estimate numbers or cost, but, if you are interested in such a project would you please let me know.

K.W. Suckling
Hon. Membership Secretary

LECTURERS REQUIRED

The Secretary of the Society would like to know, as a matter of urgency, the names of any members who would be prepared to give lectures. In general, illustrated talks of about 45 minutes are preferred and the subjects most frequently asked for are:

a) the activities of the Sussex Archaeological Society,
b) the properties of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

The Secretary would appreciate it if any member who felt that he or she could help would please write stating:

i) Subject and whether or not illustrated.
ii) Area in which member is prepared to lecture.
iii) Type of audience (e.g. affiliated Society, W.I., Young Farmers).
iv) Best time of year, best day of week, and times.

HONORARY SALES DIRECTOR

It has been decided that with the improvements expected in the arrangements for selling at Barbican House and those at Anne of Cleves House at a later date, an Honorary Sales Director (HSD) should be appointed. Apart from supervising the sales and sales accounts for all the properties in the Lewes area, the HSD should cooperate with the sales organisations at Fishbourne and Michelham Priory.

Any member who has had experience in this type of business and who would be interested should apply to the Secretary of the Society at Barbican House.

NEW EDITOR

I am retiring from the editorship at the end of 1980 and I should like to thank all those who have given me their help and support, particularly staff of Barbican House, members of the Archaeological Committee and those who have so regularly sent me copies of their bulletins. I regret that lack of space has sometimes prevented publication of material submitted.

I had hoped to publish the name of the new editor in this issue. Unfortunately there has been some delay but the Council expects to announce a decision in January. Anyone interested should write immediately to Barbican House. Meanwhile any copy for publication in 1981 should be sent to the Honorary Editor, C/o Barbican House, Lewes.