

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2005

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Please direct any correspondence or membership enquiries to the appropriate officer c/o the Record Office
Visit the FESRO web site at: www.esrole.fsnet.co.uk

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Opening Times

Mon, Tue, 8.45-4.45, Wed 9.30-4.45, Thur 8.45-4.45, Fri 8.45-4.15
& the second Saturday in each month 9.00-1.00 & 2.00-4.45

*To book please phone the Search Room on:
01273 482359 (Booking is essential on Saturdays)*

FESRO e-mail Forum

If you are connected to the internet you can join the Friends 'e-mail list'. This system is like an open forum, through which any member can send an open e-mail to the rest of the group. There is no fee, just send a blank e-mail to:

fesroeg-subscribe@onelist.com

If you are seeking information on a particular subject relating to the history of the county, simply e-mail the group.

News from the chairman

To my intense regret I was unable to participate in the visit to Charleston, organised so splendidly by Diana Crook; by all accounts it was a great success and a report by Colin Brent appears elsewhere in this edition to inform those of us who were unable to attend. Alas, the final event of the summer, the visit to Preston, has had to be cancelled due to a shortage of bookings. We hope to be able to reschedule the walk for some future date.

Next year we have in mind some rather different approaches for our activities. I am arranging a special visit to Winchelsea in the late spring which will include (I hope) a special cream tea; my intention is that the event will take the place of the evening social. Mike Hughes has kindly offered to organise a visit to Christ Church Oxford, sometime in September. We should get an insider view of the archives and an opportunity to tour the college as well as have some lunch there. There are two snags: first, we will have to make an early start and secondly, while we are doing all we can to keep costs down, coach hire does make such visits expensive. However, we aim to offer something you would not normally be able to do. Join us and revisit childhood with echoes of both Alice in Wonderland and Harry Potter!

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on Friday 11 November. Malcolm Pratt will be “Telling Winchelsea’s Story”, and copies of his new book will be available for purchase. We welcome proposals for new committee members to stand for election at the AGM – please do make yourself known if you feel you can help. A very special need is for someone to coordinate the events programme. Are you adept at gently chivvying individuals who are organising events and getting copy for newsletters at the appropriate time? If you are, we urgently need your help.

As you see from Elizabeth’s report, the next stage of the application for funding for the development plan for The Keep and for the digitisation programme for the illustrative material held at ESRO and elsewhere in the county is now being prepared. The Friends have pledged £2000 as part of the matching funding required by the HLF – the Heritage Lottery Fund – for any project of this nature.

The need for us to keep substantial funds readily available was made particularly apparent when a fine map of Etchingham was offered for sale at Bonham’s earlier this year. The full, slightly farcical, story is told by Chris Whittick elsewhere (page 4) in the newsletter. The additional contributions that many of you made when you paid your subscriptions last year contributed a substantial addition to our funds, as did the decision of many of you to use Gift Aid. Thank you all both for your generosity and for taking the trouble to sign up for Gift Aid – it is well worth while.

We do need to increase our membership. If you know of anyone who has an interest in the work of East Sussex Record Office, either as a user or as someone with a general interest in the conservation of archives, please encourage them to join the Friends. The wider and more varied the membership base we can demonstrate as a supporting organisation, the more influential we can be when ESRO applies to the Heritage Lottery Fund for any further grant aid.

My final sad task is to bid farewell to Rachel Freeman, who has been masterminding the preparation of the parochial archives for inclusion on the website www.a2a.org.uk: an invaluable resource for all of us. It has been a massive task and Rachel heroically turned down a grant for her MA in medieval studies in order to honour her contract with us. At the time of writing 10 parishes remain to be completed. The list will be a permanent reminder of her talents. We wish her well in the future as she prepares to take up her place at UCL.

Pam Combes

Record Office news

New record office

The bid for funding a joint audience development and access plan for both this project and for the digitisation of library, archive and museum materials (and especially glass plate negatives) is nearing completion as I write. I am very grateful for the Friends who have written a letter of support and pledged £2,000 in match funding if the bid succeeds. The plan will look at who our users are now, who we should be aiming at in future, and how we can reach them all! The plan will be an essential element of the full funding bid to be made to HLF in future.

Other bidding activity

Since my last report, East Sussex Record Office has been awarded £48,000 by the Wellcome Trust to enable it to list and conserve records of the Lady Chichester Hospital, Hove, which are deposited at the Record Office. Congratulations should go to all the staff who had an input to the bid, but particularly to Andrew Bennett and Wendy Walker.

The Lady Chichester Hospital was opened in 1899 by Dr Helen Boyle for treating nervous disorders in women and girls (see page 3). Her pioneering work in this field is of international importance: she was among the first to promote the benefits of separating people with recoverable conditions – what she referred to as borderline cases – from the chronically ill. The survival of patient records is extraordinarily good, and of far greater diversity and interest than parallel series from County Asylums. The objective of the project is to preserve the archive, create means of access and make it more widely available (in compliance with data protection and other relevant legislation). The project is expected to start in October and to last a year.

We already have another bid in preparation

to the Wellcome Trust to list and conserve x-rays from Chailey Heritage documenting its work with thalidomide cases.

Access to Archives

By the time you read this, Rachel Freeman, our Project Officer for the *Sussex Parish Chest* will have left to study for her MA at University College London. She will be much missed for her good-humoured hard work for the project and for helping to lower the average age of the Record Office staff! Parish lists will continue to be added to the *Access to Archives* website as they are processed by the central team.

Navigating History

In my last report I mentioned the last phase of our Navigating History project. I now have more information on Neville Gabie's commission and the events around it (the dates of which have changed). Neville's project is based on events on 10 September 2001. Having collected documents recording that day, he intends to display some of the items he has gathered (with the permission of those concerned) on the billboards opposite Lewes station from 12 September to 8 October and to have a centre-page spread in the *Sussex Express* on 16 September. It should have quite an impact. We are also planning another evening event with Neville and other speakers (to be confirmed) on 6 October at 6.30 at The Maltings. Do come along.

Elizabeth Hughes

LIFT REQUIRED

A volunteer subscriber from the Eastbourne area has lost his lift to the Record Office. Any offers of help would be appreciated. Please contact the ESRO reception desk for details.

Dr Boyle's borderland

Decades of patient records from the Lady Chichester Hospital in Hove will give unique insights into the early treatment of 'nervous disorders' in women and girls, as *Andrew Bennett* explains.

Work on listing the archive of the Lady Chichester Hospital will begin in the autumn, with funding from the Wellcome Trust. The project will last for a year and will make records available to medical researchers, former patients and their descendants and current medical practitioners. All work will be compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Lady Chichester Hospital was opened in 1899 by Dr Helen Boyle for treating nervous disorders in women and girls. In its early years the hospital saw successive relocations from premises in Islingword Road, Roundhill Crescent and Ditchling Road, Brighton. The hospital found a permanent address at Aldrington House, New Church Road, Hove in 1920. Unfortunately the rather peripatetic existence of the hospital in its early years mean that little survives pre-1920. However, the excellent survival rate of the post-1920 patient case-files makes this archive internationally significant.

Dr Helen Boyle's unique in-patient facility at the Lady Chichester Hospital preceded the more famous Maudsley by almost 20 years and as such fills an important gap in mental health history. The hospital treated only uncertifiable nervous disorders which Boyle referred to as 'early nervous disorder', 'borderland', 'recoverable' and 'temporary'. At the close of the nineteenth century, the English lunacy laws governing pauper cases made no concessions for acute, temporary, or recoverable conditions: all were certified, and housed in an asylum along with severe and chronic cases. Because of the law Boyle's hospital worked without the financial support

of the Board of Control, the authority regulating the provision of mental health facilities. Boyle was forced to defend her work constantly, because the Board did not recognize the term 'borderland' and did not support the treatment of any mental disorders in the poor outside the asylum system; her work was perceived as a challenge to their authority. Boyle's approach to mental disorders and the care at her hospital was a pioneering alternative to the asylum for poor sufferers, and avoided certification and the stigma attached to confinement in a madhouse. By the end of the 1930s Boyle's work was being acknowledged by the psychiatric profession and in 1939 she was appointed as the first woman president of the Medico-Psychological Association.

The patient records of this hospital, which cover the period 1922-1987, are valuable for research in the history of medicine because of the unique nature of its work with nervous disorders. The information contained in the records relating to psychotherapy, drug and occupational therapy, child guidance and parenting and on individual conditions such as anorexia, gender reassignment, post-natal depression and menopause, will be a valuable archive for medical historians and sociologists. Social and economic historians will also benefit from access to the patient records because they contain information on issues such as fund-raising, insurance schemes and friendly society benefits, the income and occupation of patients and the relationships between patient and doctor.

Andrew Bennett is Brighton and Hove Archivist.

ESRO buys exciting map of 1754

***Christopher Whittick* describes the stunning new acquisition, and the race to secure it at auction.**

Hard on the heels of our acquisition of a 17th-century survey of the manor of Bodiam, reported in the last newsletter, the Record Office has made another successful purchase which I am delighted to tell you about. The purchase has again been made possible by assistance from FESRO.

We were informed both by the National Archives monitoring team and by the auctioneers that a map of Kitchenham and Birkham Farms in Etchingham, drawn in 1754, would be sold at Bonham's in Bond Street on 21 June, lot 220. The estimate was £600-800, but with out usual cynicism in such things we set out to raise financial cover for a bid of up to £2500.

Looking at the map, I hope you will agree that this approach was justified. As well as the cartographic information, the surveyor Thomas Redford, following his usual practice, had illustrated his map with a delightful agricultural scene - we were afraid that we would be competing not just against map collectors but also enthusiasts for 18th-century art.

This map shows an exceptionally large area - two farm-houses and almost 400 acres of land - of demesnes of the May family of Pashley in Ticehurst, which lies just to the north of the farms which it depicts. The title is presented on a stone plinth, in the foreground of which is a rustic scenes of harvesters, one dressed in a Sussex smock, carrying an ox-goad, with a team of oxen drawing a wagon, ready to collect the pile of sheaves which have been reaped by two other figures, one with a rake and the other carrying a scythe.

Thomas Redford of Hawkhurst (c.1700-1778) practised as a cartographer between 1728 and 1755; this map lies almost at the end of his career. Most of his work was confined to local estates, but in 1730 he was prepared to travel as far as Thakeham, almost on the Hampshire border in West Sussex, to map the estate of a Hawkhurst landowner (WSRO Add MS 40, 946). All his maps are illustrated with highly competent drawings of rural scenes, and this is by far the most ambitious example that we have seen. His son Thomas Redford (c.1730-1801) also drew maps, but his main field of activity seems to have been as a solicitor and estate manager in the Hawkhurst area.

The lot also included a map showing the course of the proposed South-Eastern Railway in the parishes of Ticehurst, Burwash and Salehurst, which can be dated to 1845 from other documents already at ESRO.

Cartographic material is one of the greatest strengths of the East Sussex Record Office, and one upon which we have consciously built by an active policy of acquisition during the past 25 years. It is not difficult to justify the acquisition of estate maps by any archive repository. Maps convey a large amount of information in a very small space; they capture the appearance of a locality at a moment in time; they convey information of value to the local historian, biographer, historic buildings specialist and student of place-names; and of all the types of document in a local record office they are among the most readily accessible to an inexperienced user.

Documents relating to Pashley, dating from the early 14th century to the present day,

ESRO buys exciting map of 1754

are still in private hands, and under those circumstances a map such as this provides an ideal and at present the only way of depicting a substantial portion of it in the middle of the 18th century.

When it came to applying for funding, we were advised by the V+A Purchase Grant Fund to raise our potential bid to £5000, such was the quality of the map, and in the end we entered the sale with cover to enable a bid of £7000.

But on this occasion the belt-and-braces approach proved unnecessary - the map was knocked down to us in a matter of seconds, after virtually all the book-dealers had left the room, for a mere £560; the total cost, after

adding Bonham's buyer's premium, was £660. It was fortunate that the hammer-price was more than £500, as the 50% grants which we had so laboriously arranged would have been invalid at a lower sum. The difference of £330 was met by FESRO, and we are as ever most grateful for the generosity and promptness of their help.

Both maps have now been expertly cleaned, repaired and flattened by our conservator Melissa Williams, and are available for consultation under the reference AMS 6681.

**For further information please contact
Christopher Whittick, senior archivist,
ESRO, 01273 482348.**



FESRO visit to Charleston Manor

In July, Friends enjoyed a feast of documentary evidence as well as a tour of the manor house, as *Colin Brent* describes.

The kindness of Mr and Mrs Kandiah, the deft organization of Diana Crook, the expertise of Christopher Whittick and of David Martin, the sunshine, the cooling breeze, and an opulent tea, ensured that on 16 July forty or so Friends relished to the full the manor house, its spacious late-Georgian barns and medieval dovecote (with nearly 400 nesting boxes, still tenanted), and equally the setting created by Walter Godfrey in the 1930s for Sir Oswald Birley, the successful Society portrait painter – the stylish stable block, the gardens and lake, the terraces graced by clipped hedges of yew – all enshrined in a sequestered combe guarded by lofty beech, ash and elm.

Addressing us in the barn, Christopher tentatively tracked the name back to Churlston, a place for unfree folk allotted a north-facing slope. Then he plunged into post-Domesday darkness – Charleston was held of the Honor of Jevington, but the manor of West Dean was not, yet possibly the 12th century manor house was built by the de Denes – so were they once in a single tenure? On later owners he shed powerful new light – the Halls of Ore (1395), Jane Draper (1592), the Woods of West Hoathley (1613), the Beans who reunited Charleston with Clapham in 1748 and sold them in 1828, the Scutts and the Godfreys. As an owner-occupier, John Bean, a keen cricketer and sheriff, received the Prince of Wales and Mrs Fitzherbert. A mid 19th century tenant, the farmer Charles Ade, cut the White Horse on the chalk slope across the river Cuckmere. In 1901 a shepherd resided.

Christopher also laid before us a succulent spread of documents – among them, a grant of annuity, 20 marks, by Richard Hall in 1395 from the manor to John Goodman of Lewes; a grant in 1433 of 10 acres of open field arable in Jevington held of the manor; an uninformative draft court roll of the manor spanning 1482 and 1483; a lease of the tithes of Westdean and Charleston in 1520; a survey of the Cuckmere Levels in 1620; a valuation of the household furniture of Charles Ade in 1845; and the order of service for the funeral of Sir Oswald Birley at Westdean in 1952.

David then took us on a tour of the manor house. Its oldest part is the south-western range, the main walls date from circa 1200, as evidenced by the extant first floor two-light Norman window of rare elegance – round-headed and ‘abundantly shafted’, with leaf crockets, built of Caen stone. In the opposite gable-end is a tiny lancet, probably 13th century. Fragments of a fireplace and a candle bracket also survive. Whether the range was merely the cross-wing of a larger medieval house is uncertain. In the early 17th century a second range was built, its ground floor probably divided between an unheated parlour and a kitchen served by a cooking hearth. In the 1930s Walter Godfrey suavely enlarged this space, inserting stone windows and a fireplace, and lined it with linenfold panelling. Finally in the later 18th century the house was much up-graded – doubtless for the Beans as owner-occupiers – by the addition of a new principal range.

Colin Brent's latest book, Pre-Georgian Lewes, is on sale at the Barbican bookstall.

In praise of glebe terriers

Close scrutiny of these surveys of church land can sometimes help researchers put dates to houses, as *Pam Combes* explains.

From the mid 16th century, incumbents were required by their bishop to make terriers or surveys of glebe land to be lodged in the diocesan registries; the requirement appears to stem from increasing episcopal concerns with the preservation and defence of the possessions of the church. The duty to make and preserve copies of the terriers was first enjoined by a canon of 1571, but only a few dioceses appear to have complied with the requirement then. Certainly no surveys of that date have survived here, but an interesting group of 17th-century terriers from the parishes of the Archdeaconry of Lewes are preserved in the Episcopal archive at WSRO (EpII/17); most are dated 1635 and 1675 but occasionally others survive from different years. Microfilm copies of the terriers, somewhat varied in quality mainly because the originals themselves are varied, are held at the Maltings (XA23/8). Terriers for the parishes of the exempt peculiar of South Malling must have been returned to Canterbury, but very few survive at Lambeth Palace Library.

The terriers provide a glimpse primarily of the land, but sometimes of parsonage houses and other buildings and occasionally of other assets such as church plate and furnishings, the churchyard, customary fees, rates and tithes in the hands of the church in the 17th century. Where incumbents were also the lords of rectorial manors, such as at Brightling and Burwash, the terriers include rentals of the tenements. The landholding and houses recorded there can be usefully compared with both the glebe land appearing on 19th-century tithe maps and with the

parsonage houses and land recorded in the Nonae Rolls of 1340. In addition, those surveys that describe the land in some detail frequently include abuttals, identifying the names of adjoining landowners. Such associations of a personal name with land can often provide a crucial insight into the location of manorial tenements.

Annabelle Hughes surveyed Church Cottage in Barcombe on behalf of the Barcombe and Hamsey Research Project and, based on the evidence of the surviving timber framing, she dated the construction of the cottage to the middle of the 17th century. Barcombe is fortunate in having three terriers surviving from 1615, 1635 and 1675 (WSRO EpII/17/70-73). One particularly helpful entry in 1675 not only confirmed the approximate date of the construction of this cottage but also identified the original owner.

When the series of terriers had been transcribed, the land described was located on a modern map and compared to the glebe recorded in the tithe apportionment, with which it was almost identical (ESRO TD/E134). That exercise located Church Cottage on the boundary of one of the glebe fields called (rather boringly) in 1840 'field in front of the house'. However, that field was abutted by the road, the Six Acres, which in turn adjoined the Crink, and Culverhouse Mead. Fortunately, in spite of a curious inconsistency in the compass directions, those bounds can be related to the earlier glebe terriers. Two of the fields were described thus in 1635: 'One field with a <little> coppice (6 acres) bounding the Great Crinke Field' and 'One piece of upland meadow (3 acres)

adjoining the N of that and bounding upon Knighten Ride Lane’.

Fortunately by 1675 the description of both fields had been amplified, the second most significantly: ‘Another field with a coppice called Parkfield 6 acres

E: Crinkfield, S: Widow Chauntlers Mead, W: The Culverhouse land, N: Highway.

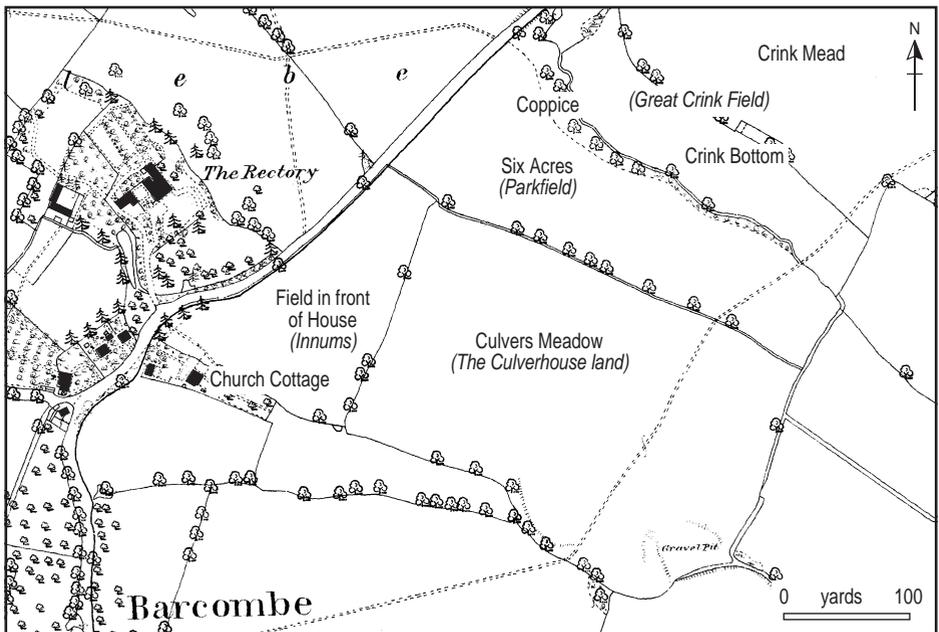
And: ‘a piece of upland meadow called Innums (3 acres), S: The Culverhouse land, W: Knighten Ride Lane *now stopped up by a cottage built by Stephen Auborne* N: The highway.

Clearly the prosaic ‘field in front of the house’ was the original Innums and Stephen Auborne (Aborne) must have built what is now known as Church Cottage sometime between 1635 and 1675; according pleasingly with the evidence of Annabelle’s survey. The parish registers reveal that Stephen’s family

was growing rapidly in the middle years of the 17th century. He and his wife Elizabeth had seven children, John, Elizabeth, Stephen, Edward, Anne, Goring and Thomas (who died the same month) – ample reason for building a new house!

Meanwhile Colin Hobbs has been working on the Barcombe Manor tenements for the project – his work is not yet complete, but he too has identified the house. *Inhams, cottage, garden, 1 rood late waste adjoining parsonage land. Copy 2s 0d.*

Elizabeth died in 1681 and Stephen was dead by 1686 when the court book reveals that their son, also Stephen, had been admitted to the tenement; he disposed of the property in 1689. Now it only remains to solve the mystery of the intriguing *Knighten Ride Lane* – is it significant? Has anyone come across a similar name elsewhere?



Location of Church Cottage. Tithe and terrier data reconciled with Ordnance Survey 1873-4 map.

DATES FOR YOUR 2005/2006 DIARY

- Oct 5th - FESRO Committee Meeting
Oct 8th - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
Nov 11th - **FESRO AGM**
Nov 12th - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
Dec 7th - FESRO Committee Meeting
Dec 10th - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
2006
Jan 14th - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
Jan 31st - Newsletter deadline
Feb 11th - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
Mar 11th - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
Apr 8th - Saturday opening (please phone to book)

**For booking Saturday openings please phone the Search Room on:
01273 482359**

FESRO AGM

**Friday 11 November
at 7.30pm in the Maltings**

Malcolm Pratt

will be

“Telling Winchelsea’s Story”

Copies of his new book will be available for purchase