

# NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2006

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# FRIENDS OF THE EAST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE

Chairman	Mrs Pam Combes
Vice-Chairman	Lady Teviot
Hon. Secretary	Dr Sally Dench
Hon. Treasurer	Mr Michael Verrall
Newsletter Editor	Dr Gail Vines
Newsletter Production	Ms Sue Rowland
County Archivist	Mrs Elizabeth Hughes

## Committee Members:

Ms Barbara Abbs	Mr Ian Hilder
Mrs Judy Brent	Lord Teviot
Mrs Diana Crook	

President: Phyllida K. Stewart-Roberts OBE, Lord-Lieutenant, East Sussex  
Registered Charity No. 296062

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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](http://www.esrole.fsnet.co.uk)

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Telephone: 01273 482349  
e-mail: [archives@eastsussexcc.gov.uk](mailto:archives@eastsussexcc.gov.uk)

### 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)*

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## News from the chairman

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### **The Lambert Herstmonceux Portfolio: an urgent appeal for funds**

As you all know, in recent years the Friends have provided funds for the purchase of search room equipment and further funds, when they were required, to supplement grant aid to purchase documentary material. In addition, recently, we have also provided the matching funding essential for applications made to the HLF for digitising lists for the *Access to Archives* website and assessing the viability and costs of the provision of a new record office. That essential obligation will continue as the application progresses through various phases.

Sadly, the ever-increasing calls on our funds have made it impossible for us to fulfil all the demands that have been made recently. The following sad tale of the Lambert watercolours of Herstmonceux Castle in 1776 amply demonstrates the problem.

A fine album of paintings and two ground-plans, commissioned from the James Lamberts of Lewes by Lord Dacre, whose family had built the castle, was offered for sale at Sotheby's on 24 November last year. The paintings are particularly significant since they depict the castle on the eve of the demolition of the interior by its new owners. ESRO felt justified in their acquisition since, rather than simply examples of topographical art, the views represent a conscious attempt to record a building - a form of National Monuments Record two centuries ahead of its time. The V+A Purchase Grant Fund, with what turned out to be great foresight, offered 50% support up to a hammer-price of £10,000, which with Sotheby's premium of 20% (yes, 20%) brought the value of the offer to half of £12,000. To match that offer would have cost the Friends £6000 - an impossible sum given the other calls on our funds. There was no time to launch an appeal and we were able to offer only £3000 towards the purchase, with the result that ESRO had to drop out of the bidding at £6000; the volume fell to the next bid, and sold for a total of £7,657.

Christopher Whittick arranged for a stop to be put on an export licence and contacted the purchasers, who are now prepared to offer it to us for £12,500. The V+A, now shorter of funds than it was two months ago, has reduced its grant to £4500. Christopher has been endeavouring once again to raise further grants but regrettably all his efforts have proved unsuccessful.

I feel confident that FESRO members will not wish any such important documents to be lost, with the almost inevitable result of the volume's dismemberment. To save the portfolio we need help to raise another £5000 by the end of March. £25 from every

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## News from the chairman cont.

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member could secure the future of this unique record of Herstmonceux, recently described as 'among the most magnificent late medieval castles to survive anywhere in Europe'.

This mailing includes a form, including a Gift-Aid declaration, which I hope members will use to return their donations to this appeal. How rewarding it will be, and what excellent publicity, to see a newspaper article headlined 'Saved by the Friends of East Sussex Record Office'. What better launch-pad for a further appeal to the wider public to help our work? Please help us to make that a reality.

This is the first time that FESRO has made an appeal to save a particular document, and I have every confidence in our success; but the story has a more telling moral. Had the Friends been able to match the V+A's original offer, we would almost certainly have been able to purchase the volume at a lower price. Our staff at ESRO would have been spared the many hours of work they have devoted to attempting to save this precious record, and the distasteful necessity of accommodating a dealer's profit-margin would have been avoided.

Almost on a weekly basis, documentary sources are being offered for sale; owners are increasingly reluctant to give away what are now perceived as commercially valuable assets. If we are to help to save these precious resources, and I believe it is a major part of the role of FESRO to assist the record office to do so, we must build up and retain in hand a much higher level of funds. Ideally, we should establish a purchase-fund and live off its income, rather than live from hand to mouth as at present. But however desirable, that is still a long way in the future.

I hope you will see fit, through your support of this appeal, to help the Friends to continue to aid ESRO not only now but also in the future. By ticking both boxes, you will not only assist the appeal by a further 28% through Gift-Aid, but also ensure that your donation will be available to meet similar emergencies as and when they occur, as undoubtedly they will.

Archives regrettably remain the poor relation of the heritage industry, and until circumstances change the generosity of committed individuals such as members of FESRO is all that stands between the loss of documents such as the Lambert Herstmonceux portfolio and their preservation for the whole community to study and enjoy.

*Pam Combes*, FESRO chairman

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## Record Office news

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As I write, we are busy both with annual stock-taking and with digitising our tithe maps (more of this elsewhere in the *Newsletter*).

### New record office

Our bid for funding a joint audience development and access plan for both The Keep and for the digitisation of library, archive and museum was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund at the end of November and we are hoping for a decision by February or March. We have also commissioned a preliminary site search, based on the findings of the feasibility study, to identify possible locations for the Keep. We have had some initial feedback but more work will be needed to refine the search.

We are continuing to keep in touch with potential partners and are currently putting together some ideas with Sussex University for a seminar to look at the current resources available at East Sussex Record Office for all types of academic research and at the potential for supporting, enhancing and developing these resources in relation to the University's needs as part of the Keep. There is a huge potential to support and enhance existing areas of research and teaching and to promote new areas of interest and study. That support would come not only in the more well-rehearsed areas of the humanities but also in less-obvious subjects, such as medical history and research.

We are also extending our knowledge and expertise in fundraising. Wendy Walker, the

Project Leader for The Keep, has been awarded one of only six fundraising bursaries for staff working in libraries, archives and museums across the south-east. The bursaries, worth £4,000, have been made available for the first time by SEMLAC, the South East Museum, Library and Archives Council, and are part of a programme aiming to increase the level of skills and confidence of the sector as a whole in the important area of fundraising. Wendy won the award against stiff opposition from candidates across the region and is the only archivist to have been awarded one of the bursaries.

The bursary will enable Wendy to attend several workshops and a week-long course at the National Arts Fundraising School in Scotland. This will greatly increase our fundraising knowledge and skills and will stand us in good stead for fundraising for The Keep.

Participation in the programme will also benefit both East Sussex County Council and the county as a whole. Wendy's expertise will be used to promote fundraising for such projects as the new Record Office but will also be there to be called on by County Council staff who are preparing funding applications for cultural and heritage projects, and by archives, libraries and museums across the county. In this she will be working with the East Sussex Museum Development Officer, Sonia Rasbery, whose post is externally funded, but who is based within the Archives and Records Management Service.

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## Record Office news cont.

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### ESRO and the media

The BBC has been broadcasting the second series of its family history programme, *Who Do You Think You Are* and as a spin-off is running a number of family history events around the country on the weekend of the 11 and 12 February. This will include an outside broadcast from East Sussex Record Office on 11 February. Members of the public will be invited to seek advice on getting started or on how to find an elusive ancestor. The Record Office will be open as usual that day and its normal service will not be interrupted.

We also helped the CBBC channel, which put together a programme to help viewers find out about the history of where they live, based on Middle Street School, Brighton. East Sussex Record Office holds the records of the school and has provided archive material for the programme, which was broadcast on 16 January.

### National archives inspection

We are playing host to the National Archives Inspection Service on 7 February. The NAIS is responsible both for licensing the Record Office to hold public records (for example, records of hospitals and magistrates' courts) and for advising on appropriate repositories for allocation of archives accepted by the nation in lieu of inheritance tax. The Battle Abbey Archives have recently been accepted in this way and ESRO has applied for permanent allocation, hence the timing of the inspection. The gist of the last inspection report was that we are doing the best we can with the resources at our disposal but that the only way to achieve modern

standards will be to build a new Record Office on a single site.

### Records of Lady Chichester Hospital, Hove

In the last *Newsletter* I reported on our success in being awarded £48,000 to list and preserve the records of the pioneering Lady Chichester Hospital, Hove. The work is now well under way – we have two Project Assistants, Anne Hart (on secondment from her post of receptionist) and Lavender Jones – who began work at the end of October and are making excellent progress. The post of receptionist is still vacant as I write but we hope to be able to recruit very soon.

### Budget news

As ever, the budget situation for the County Council as a whole is very tight. We have been asked to make savings in the region of £10,000 (including increased income). This of course will not be easy, but our final saving target is considerably less than that originally asked for, which would inevitably have had a major impact on the public service. Final confirmation of the savings target will be made at the County Council meeting in February.

*Elizabeth Hughes*

P.S. For those wondering where the annual report has been for the past two years, your wait is nearly over. A bumper version, covering 2003-2005, is with the printers and will be available soon.

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## Future events

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### Joint WSAS/FESRO visit Shipley Mill and Church on 9 April

We will meet at 11am for a talk by *Philip MacDougall* and a guided walk around the church. We then have our own lunch (please bring a packed lunch). At 2 pm we will visit the mill. Followed by tea in the hall afterwards.

Please note that the mill has some steep steps, so some people may want to visit only the first floor where there is an information video. The visit will cost approx £5. Further details are available from [stephanie.cecil@portsmouth-college.ac.uk](mailto:stephanie.cecil@portsmouth-college.ac.uk)

### Guided walk round Firle village Saturday 20 May

Those Friends who enjoyed *Andrew Lusted's* tour of Glynde a few years ago will be delighted to learn that he has offered to take a group around Firle. The village is about four miles east of Lewes – turn right off the A27. Please leave cars in the car park that is on the left just before the Ram Inn. Friends should walk up the Street and wait outside the village shop for the tour to start. It will take about an hour. There are seats by the war memorial and the Ram Inn, and toilets are available at the latter.

Should anyone want refreshment afterwards, there is a tea room at Middle Farm, although it may be busy on a Saturday. Turn right out of the village on to the A27 and it is a short distance on the left hand side. The tour costs £2 per person and numbers are restricted to 30, so don't miss out on what promises to be a very interesting afternoon. (See enclosed form for booking).

*Diana Crook*

### Visit to Winchelsea Saturday 10 June at 2pm

The visit, guided by *Malcolm Pratt*, will start with a welcome in the Lower Court Hall. Should the number of Friends be large, the party will be divided into two. For one half of the group, the first hour will consist of a talk about and display of the town's civic regalia followed by a visit to the museum in the Upper Court Hall. The other half will walk round the town, visiting the church and one of Winchelsea's cellars. The groups will then have a reverse programme, both finishing at approximately 4.15 pm. when it is hoped that there will be a cream tea in the New Hall for everybody.

Participants should note that the museum is only accessible by a fairly steep set of outside stairs, and access to the cellar will also be problematic for anyone who finds steps difficult. (See enclosed form for booking).



*Medieval seal of Winchelsea*

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## Future events cont.

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### FESRO visit to Oxford, 27 September

A visit by coach has been arranged to see the archives of Christ Church College, in the morning, and in the afternoon to have a tour of Magdalen College, followed by a look at some of the college archives. The colleges are two of the oldest in Oxford, and both have documents and maps pertaining to Sussex as well as some of national importance. Lunch will be taken in the city where there are plenty of cafes, bars and restaurants nearby.

The coach will depart from Lewes Railway station at 8.00am and return to Lewes by 6.00pm. The cost per person will be £32, which includes cost of coach, driver's tip and cost of the tour of Magdalen College.

Please complete the enclosed application form and send it with a cheque made out to FESRO and send to Michael Hughes c/o FESRO, East Sussex County Record Office, The Maltings, Lewes, East Sussex.

*Michael Hughes*

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## As one door closes, another opens ...

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Well, we did it. The lid is now closed on *The Sussex Parish Chest*, a project to retro-convert the lists of the records of the ecclesiastical parishes of East and West Sussex, and to mount them on the *Access to Archives* website. Our own tally - 265 parishes - although numerically smaller than that of our western neighbours, contains much more information, a result of the more detailed way in which we list documents here at Lewes. Anyone who has recently visited the site - <http://www.a2a.org.uk> - will have discovered that entering the name of an East Sussex parish will now guarantee a hit on the records of its ecclesiastical parish. Don't stop there; if you then click on *Catalogue in Full* the entire list will emerge, rather than just those few entries in which the name of the parish appears.

As indicated in the last *Newsletter* the completion of the project turned into a race against time, the goal set by the twin targets of the National Archives deadline and the end of Rachel Freeman's contract. Despite the haste with which the project closed, we stuck to our determination to enter details of all the poor-law cases - removal orders, settlement certificates and examinations, bastardy, apprenticeship and militia papers - for every parish. The result is a resource which will be useful not solely to family historians, but

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## As one door closes, another opens ... cont.

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to biographers, social historians and anyone interested in a particular parish. As an internal resource the completion of *Chest* marks a major step forward. There are now no unlisted parish records in the office (*not until the next deposit - ed*), and we have a much sounder base on which to build lists of new records as they accrue.

What may turn out to be the Record Office's last lottery-funded consortium project would not have been possible without Rachel's dedication and hard work, but as the clock ticked away, more and more of the archivists on both sides of the office joined in to ensure its completion. Melissa Williams was always on hand to mend a troublesome document, and John Farrant, who oversaw the whole project at Lewes and Chichester, brought his mastery of the software to bear again and again. How appropriate then that the work threw up a fascinating new reference to Cater Rand (1750-1825) schoolmaster, surveyor and engineer, on whom John has published. The document - PAR 409/34/2/10 - gives an entirely new dimension to the energy and vigour of the man, and prompts a suspicion that his surname may have given rise to some ribaldry in the Laughton of 1803. Anyone in need of further enlightenment should enter 'Cater Rand' into a2a and click on the last hit - parish of Laughton.

Never ones to let the grass grow under our feet, we have embarked on a new project - *East Sussex Depicted* - which aims to digitise our extensive and hugely important holdings of maps and other images and to mount them on a website. This enterprise has been funded by a special budget made available by East Sussex County Council in response to a challenge to all departments - what would you do with £150,000? Our proposal was immediately convincing, and only a year later the first part of the scheme - the capture of images of all our tithe maps - is almost complete. All these maps, many of which have been all but worn out by over-use - have been cleaned, repaired and made ready for scanning by Melissa Williams, to enable us to obtain the best possible image. Once the maps have been scanned the originals will not be produced, and members of the public will be able to view the images either on screen in the searchroom, or by purchasing a copy on CD-Rom and taking time over their research at home.

But scanning the tithe maps is merely the first element of *East Sussex Depicted*. We will soon move on to our stunning holdings of manorial and estate maps, and eventually hope to include other visual material such as photographs, aerial photographs and perhaps even moving images. In the next *Newsletter* we hope to give an update on this exciting project.

*Christopher Whittick*

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## Snapshots of a tailor's life

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*Susan Moore* describes a new ESRO acquisition – a fascinating photograph album, carefully maintained by a Brighton family over five decades.

ESRO has recently acquired a photograph album presented by his staff to John E (Edward) Burghope, a Brighton tailor and outfitter, on his marriage in 1890 (AMS 6685). The album was evidently a thoughtful gift to mark an important social event for the firm, and was conscientiously maintained thereafter. It offers a fascinating glimpse into the origins of a family firm and Brighton's commercial and social history more generally. This handsome volume contains more than 60 photographs, dating from c.1860 to c.1910. Those named are mainly of family members including John and Charlotte Burghope, John E's grandparents; Sarah Burghope, his mother; Anne and Samuel Burghope, his siblings; and Henry Arnold Hitchins, his brother-in-law. The photographers' locations - USA, Canada, Birmingham and Oxford as well as Brighton - suggest the family had spread well beyond their roots in the west country.

John E Burghope was born at Stroud, Gloucestershire in 1861, descended from a family of tailors. He had served his apprenticeship in London (as had his father before him) and moved to Brighton with his father and brother Harry in 1884, to take advantage of its business opportunities. John married Catherine Hitchins, and Harry married her sister Ethel, the daughters of Thomas Hitchins, a surgeon and medical officer of health from Brailes, Warwickshire. (There are several unidentified photographs in the album almost certainly from this side of the family). At first the family lived over their shop at 139-140 North Street and 29-30 Portland Street, Brighton (the corner of the two streets). The business continued at that address for several decades but by 1932 had moved to

40a North Street, and to 130 St James Street by 1939 - where it remained at least until 1948. The Burghope brothers and their families moved from North Street around 1894 and lived, separately, at various addresses in Brighton and Hove including 14 Wakefield Road, "Preston View" Dyke Road Drive, 17 Clermont Terrace, "The Poplars" Harrington Road, and 25 Harrington Villas (where John's son John William was living as late as 1962). John died on 1 March 1932 and his obituary appeared in the *Brighton and Hove Herald* on 5 March 1932.

The Burghopes feature prominently in a 1911 coronation publication about shops on Brighton's main thoroughfares, also at ESRO AMS 6686/2/2/5.



Two young members of the Burghope family.

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## Quo Vadis?

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Bored with modernity? Why not join FESRO's own Latin and palaeography workshop, and learn how to decipher medieval manuscripts, as *Michael Verrall* explains.

Where do you go when your document appears from that mysterious region of the record office known as the Strong Room and you are confronted with Latin? Many people probably say 'It's probably not very important – I'll ignore it'. However a better attitude is to resolve to learn the rudiments of Latin and what better way than to do so under the guidance of an expert tutor?

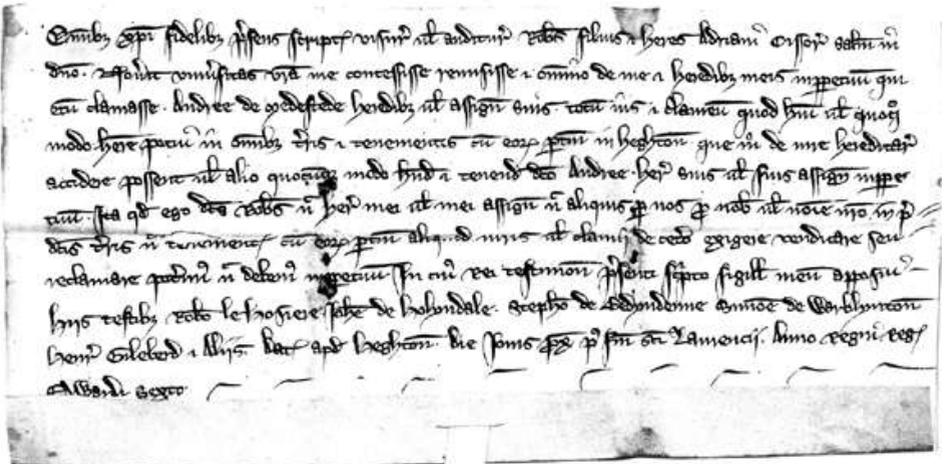
The Friends have recently organised a series of five workshops under the guidance of Anne Drewery whose patience and enthusiasm has enabled us to unravel a trinity of problems: palaeography, language and abbreviations.

A group of ten people, with little or no prior knowledge of Latin, found that we were unable to unlock the secrets of a variety of medieval and Tudor documents. It was not easy, but after being given a transcript of the document in modern

typeface we could then concentrate on the grammar and abbreviations. We examined a variety of deeds, charters and probate documents of the 13th -16th centuries. On returning to the original script we could then start to see how the scribe formed their words and letters at various periods. Anne then carefully guided us through the numerous contractions and abbreviations which are a feature of medieval Latin.

Such was Anne's infectious enthusiasm that the majority of the group have signed up for a further five sessions which are currently in progress. Because of the nature of the workshops, no more than ten people can be accommodated and it is possible that some people were excluded from the original group. If you are interested in taking part in any future workshops, please contact me at:

[m.verrall@bopenworld.com](mailto:m.verrall@bopenworld.com)



Release of lands and tenements at Heighton Street in Firle, 1312 (SAS/G47/47).

## DATES FOR YOUR 2006 DIARY

- Mar 8 - FESRO Committee meeting
- Mar 11 - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
- April 8 - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
- April 9 - Sunday - **Visit to Shipley Mill with WSRO**
- May 13 - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
- May 20 - Saturday - **Guided walk round Firle village with Andrew Lusted**
- May 31 - Newsletter deadline. Copy to ESRO Reception
- June 10 - Saturday - **Visit to Winchelsea with Malcolm Pratt**
- June 10 - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
- July 8 - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
- Aug 12 - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
- Sept 9 - Saturday opening (please phone to book)
- Sept 15 - Newsletter deadline. Copy to ESRO Reception
- Sept 27 - Wednesday - **Visit to Christ Church and Magdalene Colleges, Oxford with Michael Hughes**
- Sept - FESRO Committee meeting (date to be arranged)

To book an event please use the enclosed booking form. Payment within 7 days (cheques to FESRO) must be made to secure bookings of events, *please include an sae with all correspondence.*

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

Coming soon  
a new FESRO website

Follow the link from:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/localandfamilyhistory/esro/about/>