



SHEFFIELD
PARK
MAY 9TH 1893



CRICKET MATCH
BETWEEN THE
AUSTRALIAN ELEVEN
AND THE
EARL OF SHEFFIELD'S
ELEVEN.



Friends of [the keep] Archives

Newsletter Autumn 2018

Friends of The Keep Archives

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Peter Field,
Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex

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Secretary and Newsletter Editor:
Diana Hansen
Visits Coordinator: Annette Shelford
Philip Pople
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Sheena Parker
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Visit the Friends of The Keep Archives website at

www.fotka.org.uk

Contact the Membership Secretary at
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Contents page

Editor's introduction – Diana Hansen	1
Our new Membership Secretary	1
Chairman's Report – Mary Teviot	2
News from the Keep – Casper Johnson	4
A Family at War – Anna Manthorpe	5
Celebrating the Female Suffrage Centenary – Kate Elms	8
The Dashwood family of West Wycombe – Christopher Whittick	11
Arnold Daghani, Artist and Holocaust Survivor – Samira Teuteberg	14
Farflung sporting connections – a visit to Fletching – Diana Hansen	17
Report on visit to Battle Abbey – Bill Shelford	19
Talks and events at the Keep January – April 2019	21

Contact The Keep

The Keep Opening Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30-17.00

Wednesday 10.00-17.00

Saturday: 9.30-16.00

The Keep is closed to the public on
Sunday and Monday

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Cover images:

Flyer for cricket match at Sheffield Park

Editor's introduction

We were pleased that Peter Field, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex and our President took the chair at the AGM. The meeting approved the Annual Report and Accounts. Annette Shelford, Colin French and Sheena Parker were re-elected to the committee, and Philip Hamerton was elected as our new Membership Secretary. Following the AGM and reception, Jeremy Hodgkinson gave the third Pam Combes Memorial Lecture, marking the 50th anniversary of the Wealden Iron Research Group.

Mary Teviot's report at the AGM reviews our year. Happily we were able to help secure a continuing stream of important and fascinating acquisitions

for the Keep. Our visits to Fletching and Battle allowed members to gain unprecedented access to contrasting historic sites; they were well-attended and greatly enjoyed. The cover of this edition illustrates an unexpected insight from the Fletching visit. Internally, Colin French and Jan Boyes wrestled with the complications of our new bank account and the implications of the new data protection regulations. We hope that we have minimised inconvenience to you, our members, and we are grateful for your patience. We would be grateful if any of you who have not returned your data protection form could do so.

Diana Hansen

Our new membership secretary

Philip, although past retirement age, still works for the South East Coast Ambulance Service, now as a Patient Experience Officer 2 days a week, having been employed with the Service for 40 years. He has lived locally since moving to Brighton in 1954, and is especially interested in the history of Sussex. He achieved an Undergraduate Certificate for the Life History Work Course that used to be offered by the CCE at the University of Sussex.

He is also involved with the Shoreham Society, is a Trustee of the Brighton Tram 53 Society, which is actively restoring the last Brighton tram that was withdrawn in 1938, and runs the Brighton Railway Rifle Club. He has spent the last 35 years working as a volunteer at the East Somerset Railway. Married with 2 children and 4 grandchildren, he lives in Shoreham-by-Sea with his wife Margaret.



Chairman's report

Firstly, my thanks to our Lord Lieutenant for coming to chair our AGM, I think for the tenth time. This year has again been successful. An outing to Shoreham Fort, with our friends from West Sussex, was of great interest. This is one of only two surviving forts in Sussex in their original form; the other at Littlehampton, completed in 1854, is mostly covered in sand dunes. The Shoreham Fort, also known as the Kingston or Shoreham Redoubt, was completed in June 1857. The budget was £10,000, but as so often happens it overran and costs escalated with a final figure of £11,685 10 shillings.

The visit to Fletching began in the parish church of St Andrew and St Mary the Virgin; we then visited Church Cottage, which was of great interest. We are very fortunate that a special all-day event at Battle Abbey will take place on 22 October, when we will have access to the Abbot's Hall for coffee followed by a talk by David Martin, then lunch, a tour of the buildings by James Dennett and finally a talk by Christopher Whittick.

I hope you will forgive me for repeating some of the Accessions Report 2017-2018, which presents highlights of the 253 accessions received by the



Friends in the garden of The Cottage, Fletching

East Sussex Record Office at the Keep over a twelve month period. Many of them, about 15%, have been financed by grants amounting to nearly £11,000. Perhaps the highlight of the year was the purchase of 72 lantern slides showing the construction of the Beachy Head lighthouse between 1901 and 1902; but the sheer variety of the Keep's acquisitions is remarkable, as is the energy and enthusiasm with which they have been pursued.

In 1924, the Keeper of the National Archives of Canada summed up the essential value of maintaining accurate and comprehensive archives when he said

Of all national assets, archives are the most precious, they are the gifts of one generation to another, and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilisation.

As we face an uncertain future such words must be taken to heart by everyone in whose hands lies the future not only of the Keep, but of all County Record Offices.

On a personal note, my favourite accessions are those of Brighton, possibly because for many years I said I was born in Brighton but Hove actually – many people were convinced this was a place that existed!

Congratulations to all those who were involved in the Keep Open day on 15 September. Numbers greatly exceeded those of the previous year, and our stand was very busy. My thanks to Bill and Annette Shelford and Diana Hansen. We were able to recruit

our new Membership Secretary, and hopefully encouraged other visitors to become members

My list of thanks is as usual long. First to John Barkshire, our former Treasurer who has remained on the committee for the past year. His knowledge, his good sense and his sound advice have been invaluable. To Jan Boyes our retiring Membership Secretary, who has coped with changes of bank accounts, standing orders, unpaid and overpaid subscriptions, and also to Colin French, our Treasurer who in his first year in office has dealt with all the problems thrown up by banking red tape and regulations. To Annette Shelford and Philip Pople for organising our visits; it is not always easy to find new places and deal with health and safety regulations. To the other members of the committee; it is rare we have apologies for absence at our meetings, showing their strong commitment to the Friends. To Ian Hilder, whose sharp eyes on ebay and other sources have often saved documents for the Keep which otherwise could have been lost.

We are grateful for the support we receive from Casper Johnson and Christopher Whittick. In the present economic climate theirs is a difficult task. This leads me to the hope that you can spread the word that the Friends are of vital importance to The Keep, and that you will encourage your friends and neighbours to join us, so that we can continue to protect the archives which are the rich heritage of our County.

Mary Teviot

News from The Keep

The British Library led and HLF funded national project *Unlocking our Sound Heritage*, to digitise audio recordings on traditional formats, store them for the future and make them more accessible will commence this month. We will have four new members of staff, employed by the University of Sussex, and we have installed the necessary equipment into the former accessions room for the three years of the project.

The Open Day on 15th September was a huge success with 302 people attending and lots of very positive feedback. I would like to particularly thank all the staff for their hard work in setting it up and on the day and to FoTKA, Sussex Family History

Group, our guest speakers on WW1 and Women's Suffrage and all our volunteers for making the day such a success.

ESCC will no longer be supporting our Outreach Officer post, which focussed on schools and colleges. However, our partners will continue to offer their outreach to schools and colleges and as a partnership we will continue to offer paid-for events, talks, tours and workshops. Our programme of talks and events for spring 2019 is at the end of this newsletter. We are always happy to receive offers for help with events and ideas for future speakers. Please speak to a member of staff to find out more and pick up a leaflet from



Keep staff on Open Day

reception. We are aiming to go live with an online event booking system with a partner company called DigiTickets this month.

We continue to seek ways of saving money on the building. We are changing the parameters for temperature and humidity throughout the building and repositories in line with recently published revised British Standards which have widened the permitted ranges for archives. This will save us money, and should also benefit the public and staff by allowing for slightly more comfortable conditions. In January 2019 construction of the South East Coast Ambulance Service centre to

the south of The Keep will commence. We will put information on the website to explain to visitors what will be happening and our Building Manager is working closely with the construction firm to agree timings for movement of construction traffic and works, to ensure the safety of staff and visitors and the minimisation of any disruption.

As is evident from media reports, budgetary pressures on local authorities are acute. I see FoTKA's support and contributions to The Keep as being ever more valuable.

Casper Johnson

A Family at War; letters of the related Dawes family of Palehouse Common, Framfield, and the Pettit family of Eastbourne

In 2016 we were able to buy an interesting bundle of letters at auction which span both world wars and two generations (AMS 7278). As always we are very grateful to FoTKA for their grant that made this possible. At the centenary of the end of the First World War it seems particularly appropriate to write about the earlier period of the correspondence.



Bert Dawes

Friends of The Keep Archives

Bert Dawes enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment early in the war, in September 1914. He was the second son of George Dawes, a gardener who later became an electrician, and his wife Charlotte, of Palehouse Common, Framfield. Bert was described as an errand boy in the 1911 census. Although it seems unlikely that he had much education, Bert was an assiduous correspondent, and most of his letters are to his sisters Grace Pettit and Eva Vine. There are also letters to the sisters from their other brother George Dawes, a gardener who served in a non-combatant company following a ruling by the Uckfield Rural Tribunal, and brother-in-law Walter (Walt) Chatfield, who was in the Field Ambulance.

At the beginning of the war the military authorities seem to have been unprepared for the task of equipping and feeding the large numbers recruited. Bert has to wait for his uniform, without which he could not leave the barracks. He is pleased to receive a straw mattress and pillow after having to sleep on the ground with only his two blankets. Initially Bert's diet is largely stew and bread and he does not know how he and his fellow recruits would manage without parcels of cake from mothers and sisters. The diet improved when they were given fried bacon and beef for breakfast, stew and some cabbage for dinner, and bully beef and pickled cabbage for tea. In a later letter he describes feeling bilious because it turns out that the cabbage which they were served was wild.

Walt, who enlisted for the Field Ambulance in the autumn of 1914,

writes from Tweseldown Camp, Farnham that the food improved once they had tinned herrings for breakfast, but the usual stew was served in mugs because there were not enough plates. In November the weather is cold and gusty enough to blow the tent away. Walt says that if he had been told that he would be under canvas in November he would have been a bit *bolt eyed*. But this was just a foretaste of the privations ahead.

Religion was important to the family. In his earliest letter to Grace, Bert writes *I hope [the] allies will soon smash the Germans, and that we may come home again, for it is a bit rough here, the chaps swear and curse something awful*. He describes listening to a Salvation Army band in Dover during training, and going into their hall, although he would prefer a *nice chapel* and the band made his head ache. He later finds a Mission Hall to attend. Walt mentions that he would like to have been at the Ceylon Road Baptist Chapel, Eastbourne with the rest of the family. In 1916 his brother George Dawes states that there are five in his billet, all Christians, so that is *very nice indeed, far better than he anticipated*.

Grace's husband George Pettit does not seem to have shared the religious beliefs of the rest of the family. In January 1915 Bert expresses the hope that George will come to Jesus to find forgiveness for the past and be made a new husband and father. There seems to have been a family crisis, of which there are no details. In July 1917 Bert refers to George's call-up papers, stating that he is sorry that *GP papers*

didn't work it was rotten them keeping him till the last minute and not letting him know. I am only sorry for you Grace because I know the difference it will make but I can't feel sorry for him. George, a railway porter who had served in the Boer War, enlisted in July 1917, but was discharged as permanently unfit in the following December, aged 40, due to arthritis.

As the war continues the reader can only begin to imagine the horrors, and feel a gathering sense of foreboding about Bert's fate. But he always seems to manage to be upbeat in his letters. In May 1915 he is out of the trenches and *happy as a sand boy* lying in the shade. *It is like picnicking* – they fry their own bacon and so on. He goes on to describe a close incident with a shell and feels that the Lord is taking care of him most wonderfully.

October 1915 sees Bert in hospital at Kings Heath, Birmingham; his wounds are healing and the doctors are treating the sores on his legs, because the *food out there* means that they do not heal as quickly as they should. The wounded soldiers talk to people through the railings, who all seem more worried about the war than the Tommies and wonder how they keep so lively, but *they would know if they were out there for a few months and got back again to a decent bed and food.*

Bert was sent back to the front in February 1916. In March he refers to the deep mud, although they have boots up to their thighs so keep *nice and dry and fairly clean*. In July he is *still enjoying himself top hole* and is

in a better billet which actually has a door. The letters then get fewer, presumably because Bert was involved in the Somme offensive. Then in April 1917 we learn that Bert is again in hospital, and in May is convalescing. His customary good humour and optimism have been worn down and he writes that his battalion was *properly caught* after he left; he saw six names of his chums under the list of killed, his best pal Jim among them. He wishes this *rotten turnout was over it is none too cheerful to lose a lot of chums in a lump like that.*

In July 1917 Bert is still at home and *feeling a treat again now*. This was his last surviving letter. Such were the cruelties of the war that he was returned to the front for the second time and died of severe wounds the following month, on 18 August 1917, fighting with the 7th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. He is buried at Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun. It was a shock to discover that he was still only 21, having seen three years active service in the war. Like so many who died, he had not really begun to live.

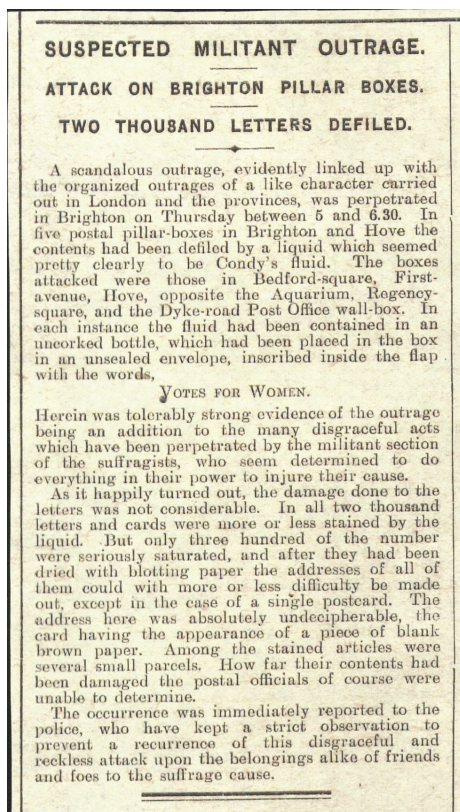
**Anna Manthorpe,
East Sussex Record Office**

Celebrating the Female Suffrage Centenary

2018 has seen a huge amount of interest, locally and nationally, in the female suffrage campaign as it is 100 years since some (but not all) women won the right to vote in parliamentary elections. At The Keep, we have marked the centenary in a number of ways, from displays of archive material to blog posts about prominent local women who were involved. These include Sussex-born Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon, who also championed education for girls and rights for married women; Margaret Bondfield, who started her working life as a 14-year-old shop assistant in Hove and in 1929 became Britain's first female cabinet minister; and Millicent Garrett Fawcett, leader of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, who visited Brighton often (she was married to the town's MP Henry Fawcett) and spoke widely on female suffrage at a time when few women expressed their views on public platforms.

During Women's History Month in March this year, local historian Frances Stenlake gave a sell-out talk about Sussex Suffragists, reminding us of the significant contribution made by these law-abiding women (and men) over six decades. Their efforts are often eclipsed by the more radical Suffragettes who, in some people's eyes, have come to represent the suffrage movement as a whole. Suffragists were in fact far

greater in number – around 50,000 made their way to Hyde Park for the Great Pilgrimage in 1913, for example, while the number of Suffragettes is thought to be less than 5,000. The Suffragists' lower profile is partly due to the fact that they preferred a peaceful, constitutional approach -



*Cutting from the Herald
28 November 1912*

lobbying MPs, gathering signatures for petitions, holding rallies - while Suffragettes deliberately set out to grab the headlines and made it impossible for people to ignore them. Local newspapers in our archive reflect this, with some fairly sensational reporting and a lively debate on the Letters pages.

Our archives also reveal that while some people unequivocally supported radical action, others backed the Suffragettes' aims but not necessarily their methods. Writing to her daughter-in-law in August 1912, Northiam resident Rosa Lord asks: 'Are you interested in the Women's Suffrage Movement? I expect you are - I am very acutely interested

and attend the meetings whenever I can at the Suffrage Shop at Hastings. I don't quite approve of the more violent doings of the militants, yet feel grateful to these women...' Reconciling the means with the end was a problem for some, and historians continue to disagree about which tactics were most effective.

Our Open Day in September gave us another opportunity to celebrate some of the extraordinary women represented in our archives. Items from Brighton Museum's collections relating to Brighton Suffragette Minnie Turner, including her sash and Holloway brooch, were on display alongside



Minnie Turner

Virginia Stephen's correspondence with Janet Case and Rosalind Nash, which dates from early 1910, before her marriage to Leonard Woolf. Held at The Keep by the University of Sussex, these letters reveal Virginia's interest in the suffrage movement and her offer to help the cause.

We also featured local coverage of the December 1918 General Election, dubbed 'the women's election' by the *Brighton Herald*, in which ladies turned out in large numbers and, contrary to expectation, seemed to know exactly what to do. And we took the opportunity to look back at some of the ways in which women of East Sussex participated in public life before 1918. There are examples in our archives of female ratepayers voting for Town Commissioners and holding positions in the parish vestry in the early 19th century. We also found women elected to school boards in the 1870s, and

serving as Poor Law Guardians in the 1880s. Parish councils provided another opportunity towards the end of the 19th century. The Local Government Act of 1894 permitted women to stand for office, and Georgiana Burne-Jones was elected in the same year in Rottingdean, where she and her husband owned a home.

In all these areas women were in the minority, and it wasn't until 1928 that they got the vote on the same terms as men. But 1918 marked a turning point that is worth celebrating. Our archives are rich in material relating to pioneering women in all walks of life, and we will continue to share their stories.

Kate Elms,
Collections Officer, Royal Pavilion
& Museums, Brighton & Hove

Brighton and Hove engravings

We have had a generous offer from our member Steve Myall, whose large collection of Georgian and Victorian engravings of Brighton and Hove is on display in his house in Polegate.

Small groups of FoTKA members would be welcome to view them. Contact him at 01323 484974, or a.f.myall1@btinternet.com. They are also available online at

<https://sbpc.regencysociety.org/>.

The Dashwood family of West Wycombe Park

In the *Accessions Report* for 2017-18 I promised that a fuller account of Edwin Sandys Dashwood, whose diary we bought with a FoTKA grant in 2017, would appear in the Autumn Newsletter. He was the fourth of the seven children of Sir John Dashwood-King of West Wycombe Park, and nephew of the notorious rake Sir Francis Dashwood. The diary (AMS 7237), which is clearly a stray from the archive of the Dashwood family of West Wycombe Park, covers a single year – 1831 – which its author, a Captain in

the Royal Horse Guards, spent in both London and Brighton in attendance on the royal family. He also found plenty of time to enjoy himself, attending balls at Brighton and Lewes, visiting the Theatre Royal and hunting with the Brookside Harriers. Perhaps the social high-point of the year occurred on 28 January, when Dashwood attended the king's party at the Royal Pavilion for the birthday of the first Duke of Sussex (Prince Augustus Frederick, 1773-1843); 'staid there til 4 in the morning – very full and splendid'.



The Chain Pier, Brighton, in 1830 from Account of an excursion to Brighton by William Fry, copy held by ESRO as ACC 13152/1

This was not the first time Edwin had been in Sussex. In the early summer of 1821 he met Amelia Hare, the daughter of the Revd Robert Hare, rector of Herstmonceux, described by his cousin Augustus Hare as 'more of a rowdy farmer than anything else' (*The story of my life* (1896-1900)). Edwin

was invited to stay at the rectory, and although both parents were horrified at the subsequent turn of events, Hare blamed Dashwood père and on 11 June wrote an eloquent and very stern letter, blaming him for his failure to prevent their engagement. It is worth quoting at length:

Since you left Herstmonceux a fortnight ago, I have been informed of the attachment of Edwin and Emily, of which before I had never heard, nor had either Mrs Hare or myself the smallest idea that any such attachment existed. I have likewise been told that they had written to you, to request your consent to their union, which you had refused on the reasonable plea that their joint incomes will not be sufficiently large for them to live upon. I lament as much as you can, that this attachment has been formed between them, and in a worldly point of view I look upon it as far from being an advantageous match to either party. Had I known before of Edwin's marked regards, I should never have thought of inviting him here ... But though I did not know of this attachment, yet I understand that you did, and were made acquainted with it when we were at Brighton. If so, provided you disapproved of the connection, surely it was most imprudent and unguarded to suffer Edwin to come here at all, and more particularly to remain under my roof for so many weeks, as could not but be self-evident that such continued residence in the same house must increase and strengthen their affection and make it severe and unjust to endeavour afterwards to separate them. Your eyes, my dear sir, they well knew were open to the subject, and therefore your sanctioning his continuance here could not but in some degree lead them to suppose, what their anxious wishes were desirous might be true, that is, that you did not in reality object to the union, though outwardly you professed to do it. Had you fortunately consulted me at first on this business, and had explicitly declared your sentiments, I would most cordially have co-operated with you in preventing it; and by expressing our mutual reluctance to its taking place, and by separating the parties, it might comparatively speaking have been more easily put an end to, at that time. But the case is now very different indeed, and the entanglement you mention is too closely woven, and too intricately entwined, to be broken or unravelled without deeply affecting both of them; and Emily I have no doubt, in her present delicate state of health, would suffer most severely from it. Having considered therefore the subject with attention, and I trust impartiality, I have on their applying to me and stating that their happiness depended on their union, and their full determination to live upon their income, advised them to an immediate marriage; and cannot but presume that almost every other father would have acted in the same manner, when the future welfare and felicity of a beloved daughter would in all probability be established, or destroyed, by his decision. The wedding will take place on Wednesday next.

[Bodleian Library DD Dashwood c.16 F 5/4/11].

Robert Hare's pessimism was justified. As early as October 1830 Edwin was thinking of selling his commission: 'I am over head and ears in debt and that I cannot with all economy avoid spending more than 200 per annum above my pay'. His father suggested an exchange with a regiment in the east, to which Edwin responded that the climate would be certain death to him. He later complained that it would be impossible to remain in the Blues unless his allowance was increased – 'I have been two years a captain this month and have had of you £80'.

Although the marriage appears to have been happy, Edwin's steady descent into alcoholism can be traced through the letters and papers of his wife. By December 1832 he had sold his commission for £5000 and moved to New Cairnmuir near Edinburgh, from where Emily wrote to her father-in-law Sir John on 31 December 1832 'Edwin is in the garden making a pyramid of snow and calls it the Tower of Babel – he is wonderfully improved and is looking better and stouter'. But all was not well. A year later his mother wrote 'your physician can do you no good unless you take care of yourself'. On 22 August 1837 Emily announced their imminent departure for France 'I find we shall leave England £200 in debt'. Unknown to Edwin and perhaps to her father, Emily had loaned £1500 of her own money to her father-in-law, who paid a high rate of interest to support them – without it, 'I should find it impossible to educate the children'. At the end of the month the couple moved to Pau in southern France; Edwin died

of symptoms related to alcoholism at the Maison Barrau, next to the mill, at Pau at one in the morning on 5 May 1837. His wife Emily Dashwood lived another 20 years in Pau, dying there in 1857 of apoplexy. Their son Sir Edwin Hare Dashwood, who had served with distinction as a captain in the 10th Foot, had by 1859 emigrated to Nelson in New Zealand. He succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his uncle Sir John Richard Dashwood without heirs on 24 September 1863. He too died of the effects of alcoholism, at Paris in 1882.

Christopher Whittick,
County Archivist

Arnold Daghani (Artist, Holocaust Survivor)



Arnold Daghani

Arnold Daghani was born Arnold Korn in 1909 in a small town at the eastern border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Suczawa (now Suceava in Romania). His parents, Mina and Victor Korn were part of a Jewish, German- speaking community in the historic region of the Bukovina. During the 1930s, as art became more important in his life, he changed his surname to Daghani in reference to the Hebrew word for Korn, 'dagan'.

Following brief spells of formal art training in Munich and Vienna, Daghani married his wife and life-long companion Anisoara, whom he called Nanino. Initially they lived in Bucharest, but after an earthquake damaged their flat in 1941 they went to Czernowitz, in the northern part of the Bukovina. During this time, Daghani created one of his most iconic images, a watercolour of his wife looking out of the window of their flat. As with many others of his works, he later added an inscription to the image that explained the context in which it had been created.

In June 1942, Romanian police arrested the Daghanis in their flat in Czernowitz and told them to pack one bag each for their deportation. One of the policemen convinced Daghani to pack his watercolours, which turned out to be a fateful decision. Following their arrest, the Daghanis were transported together with other detainees from Romania to a quarry near the river Bug. From there they were loaded onto a truck and carted across the river Bug until they arrived in a small village in the Ukraine – Michailowka. Here they had to live in a barn, which they shared with Ukrainian Jewish prisoners. Each family group had a bunk they slept in and where they kept their possessions. There and then Daghani was able to record these 'cages', as he called them, using his watercolours.

(Watercolour done in April, 1942, about two months before our deportation. In 1944, in Bucharest, we came, by chance, upon it.)



Nanino at the window (in Czernowitz) awaiting full of apprehension my coming home. Too much of a risk in the streets...

Nanino at the window

Having acquired a reputation for being an artist, Daghani was one day commissioned to create a mosaic of an eagle at the road building engineer's headquarters in Gaissin. He insisted that his wife had to come with him as his assistant without whom he could not work. During the weeks they carried out this work, they lived in a garage that was less guarded than they had been in Michailowka.

As escape became an option, they worried what repercussions their disappearance might have on other prisoners, and whether they could find someone who would hide them. Only when the local shoemaker encouraged them and offered his help did they finally run away.

As early as 1946, Daghani published the first version of his diary, covering his imprisonment in Michailowka and the murders he had witnessed. The publication of a German translation of his diary in 1960 triggered the public prosecutors in Germany to collect evidence of the atrocities that had been committed in the Ukraine as part of the German road-building programme. A lengthy trial ensued for almost 10 years and to Daghani's bitter disappointment,

none of the perpetrators was brought to justice. Some of the accused denied ever having been in the Ukraine, others refused to provide any kind of statement and again others were dead or could not be traced. In the end, the trial collapsed due to a lack of evidence. In the last years of his life, Daghani revised his original diary describing his experiences in Michailowka, adding references to the information that had come out during the trial in Germany.

(Dept early February, 1943, on a Sunday. Lapins is to be seen on top left. The inmates shown were portrayed. The top of the painting was damaged when on our escape we were wading through the river Bug.)



Inmates at Michailowka February 1943

Arnold Daghani finally settled in Hove in 1978 and died there in 1985. Throughout his life, he had continued to paint, draw and write, partly revisiting his experiences in the slave labour camp. After his death, he had expected his flat to remain a gallery and testament to his art – open to the public. Even though a local campaign started to preserve his flat, this never materialised. Eventually the University of Sussex took the collection and after a few years, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex secured funding to catalogue and research the collection. Due to this work, Daghani's revised diary was re-published in German and in English,

together with new research. Today, the over 6000 items of the Arnold Daghani collection are available for research at The Keep.

Samira Teuteberg, University of Sussex Special Collections

Far-flung sporting connections

A big turnout of members experienced a fascinating day at Fletching village on Friday 29 June. The centrepiece was not, as usual in our visits, a beautifully restored showpiece of a country house, a family home full of lovingly polished antique furniture, but a largely derelict house. The Cottage (photo on page 2), although occupied until quite recently, is an empty shell, without any modern comforts such as electricity or running water, set in an overgrown garden in which raspberry canes and roses obscure paths to a greenhouse mostly devoid of glass. So what brought us there?

Part of the answer lay in the talk by David Martin which preceded our visit. Although from the outside The Cottage could be mistaken for a Victorian villa, its structure is that of a medieval Sussex house with a central great hall. The workmanship and materials, and the sophistication of the design, with a recessed front and bay windows, mark it out as an important example of its kind. As we toured the house, courtesy of its present owner, David pointed out features such as the crown post in the upstairs room, which is of major interest to conservation architects. Restoration is a challenge, not only because of the scale, but because of the house's long history, including a long period as a pub, and the difficulty of deciding where restoration should stop.



The Cottage as the White Horse Inn

The current owner, to whom The Cottage was a legacy, will clearly approach the task with enormous affection and patience.

But The Cottage is more than a building. As Christopher Whittick explained, it played a central part in the extraordinary story of the Sheffield Park archives, which now happily reside in the Keep. On the death of Lord Sheffield in 1909 without legitimate issue, his adopted daughter May Attenborough stored a mass of papers in the attic of The Cottage, then the residence of her sister. Widowed in the first month of the war, in 1920 May remarried and departed for Fiji, never to return. The papers remained at The Cottage, which on the death of May's brother in 1951 passed to his housekeeper, Mrs King, who in 1981 consigned them for auction. Further treasures, many relating to May's wartime service as a VAD, have been discovered by

Friends of The Keep Archives

the present owner, and featured in The Keep's Open Day on 15 September.

Members who follow cricket will be familiar with the Australian cricket competition, the Sheffield Shield. Not all may be aware that the Sheffield in question was the very same Lord Sheffield, a hugely enthusiastic supporter of the game, and a pioneer in establishing the game Down Under. In 1892-1893 he was in Australia as a promoter of the English team led by W G Grace, and donated £150 to fund a trophy for an interstate tournament. The Australian press seemed to have approved of the Earl; an Australian journal described him in the following terms: "a little fat stumpy man, for all the world like an English farmer of the old standard type. Hair long and straggly, lips and face roughly shaven, and a little fringe of beard left under the chin, eyes small and cute, thick-necked, heavy, obstinate, good natured and shrewd, his Lordship is just the sort of man that would make a fine landlord of a bush pub."

The cricketing theme unexpectedly popped up again in the afternoon, when Christopher and Peter Wigan focused on the church in which we sat. Christopher described the background to the family and descendants of Roger Dallingridge, c. 1311-1380, whose brass lies in the church. The Dallingridges made money through hard work as estate administrators, marriage and success in soldiering, so that Sir Edward, builder of Bodiam Castle and antagonist of John of Gaunt, and his son Sir John, a partisan of Henry Bolingbroke, profited by their connections to establish a position at the centre of court life. Peter drew out the history of the church, whose origins go



The Earl of Sheffield

back to Saxon times. In Georgian and Victorian times, the Maryon-Wilson family were prominent landowners in the area, and sworn enemies of Lord Sheffield, whom they (correctly) regarded as an Anglo-Irish arriviste; relations were so bad that the church underwent modifications to ensure between them and Sheffield Park that the two families were invisible to each other. Sadly, even cricket played its part in the bad blood: scandalously Lord Sheffield had drinks served at his cricket matches!

As ever we are immensely grateful to Christopher and David, to Peter Wigan and especially to the current owner of The Cottage, Steven Hall, for the privileged insight into this extraordinary survival.

Diana Hansen

Friends' visit to Battle

Those of us, nearly 50 in number, who set out on a sunny October day to Battle Abbey can have had little idea that our wonderful lecturers, David Martin and Christopher Whittick, would range from describing the place where King Harold was killed (arguably on the high ground where the high altar of Battle Abbey was constructed) to the building of the Keep (in part in order to retain those of the muniments of Battle Abbey that had not been exported to Pasadena).

From David we learned that Battle town was constructed on a dry ridge. A survey in 1105 showed some 114 houses with

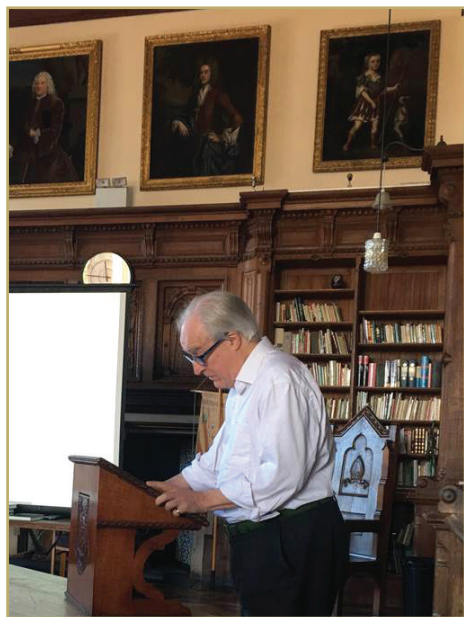
7d as rent for a 32 foot 8 inch frontage to the High Street, growing by the survey of 1367 to 211 houses and then declining by 1433 to 159 houses and after the dissolution to 124 houses in 1569. This was notwithstanding that the mitred abbot of the Abbey had indulged in some property speculation by building a row of good houses which sadly did not attract tenants of high repute. It was clear that if one had a position of importance, such as Beadle or carter, within the many jobs of those who supported the Abbey, that position was a road to a bigger and more magnificent house. Many of the houses in Battle still eloquently display their past heritage.

The Abbot himself lived in a house worthy of an Abbot of such an important place. We were asked to imagine ourselves to be a frightened Brother Bertrand climbing the very narrow staircase to reach the first-floor reception rooms occupied by the Abbot before being directed to the room where he might meet his family for a short time. Indeed, we were led over the School building catching intriguing glimpses of the old abbey incorporated into the current structure from Brother Bertrand's staircase to the Abbot's private chapel.

It was then Christopher's turn to talk about the history of the abbey in private hands, from the very rich Sir Thomas Webster who came to the poor soils of the Weald from Essex to the final Webster who ended his days



The door to Brother Bertrand's staircase



Christopher Whittick with sundry Websters

on an estate in Brazil, which he tried to convert into a Georgian-era English estate. In between there were lives and marriages mapping the Webster family linked throughout by an ability to spend more money than they had. One felt considerable sympathy for the generations of Trustees who must have been fed up with the Webster love of gambling and their political careers. There were heiresses involved including a carpet heiress who allowed Sir Augustus to buy the Abbey back in 1901 after a relatively straightforward fifty years under the loving care of the Duchess of Cleveland.

During this time the building itself reflected its owners, in the late 18th Century being described: 'The abbey commands pleasing views but there is

no care, no taste, no cleanliness!' And under the Clevelands in 1897 as 'Very handsome.'

And so we reached the muniments, sold by the Webster family in an attempt to shore up their finances. They were sold by a London bookseller, Thomas Thorpe, to a man who had an unusual attachment to vellum, Sir Thomas Phillips. It was only after his death that it was possible, with Court approval, for his 18,000 lots of records, mainly on vellum, to be sold. Of course, in monastic times the abbey was a great recorder of their estates and retained court rolls. It was these that interested Henry Huntington through the American book dealer Dr Rosenbach. In 1923 the collection reached the Huntington Library in Pasadena, where they have at last been catalogued with care by Christopher.

A few of the more picturesque grants were retained by the Webster family and they were loaned for a time to the East Sussex Record Office in the Maltings till they arrived at their final resting place: the newly built Keep where, now in the ownership of as well as possession of East Sussex County Council, they will be properly housed for the benefit of future generations.

We are indebted to Christopher and David, to Battle Abbey School for allowing us privileged access and especially to James Dennett for conducting us on a fascinating tour.

Bill Shelford

Talks and events at The Keep – January to April 2019

Britain on Film: Railways,

Weds 16 Jan, 2.30-4pm, £3

Relive the romance and freedom of train travel in this special screening from the British Film Institute's nostalgic film archive, dating from 1898 to 1970.

Japanese stab-binding workshop,

Sat 19 January, 10am-3pm, £70

This traditional technique is a perfect introduction to bookbinding.

Magic Lantern show,

Weds 30 Jan, 5.30-6.30pm, £5

An authentic lantern show featuring comic slides, optical fireworks and local views, plus a short history of the magic lantern.

Author event: an Evening with Allie

Rogers, Tues 5 Feb, 5.30-6.30pm, £5

The local author discusses Brighton's LGBT history, the overlap between fact and fiction, and the value of archives in creative writing.

Brighton in the Ice Age,

Thurs 28 Feb, 5.30-6.30pm, £5

Exploring the hidden prehistory of the city with archaeologist Dr Matt Pope.

Brighton's Victorian Church-building

Boom, Weds 13 March, 2.30-3.30pm

Dr Sue Berry looks at the reasons for expansion, and the results.

Exploring Manorial Records,

Weds 20 March, 2-4pm, £10 including tea or coffee

County Archivist Christopher Whittick assesses the value of these fascinating documents for local and family historians. Includes a display of original archives.

The Pioneering Women Doctors of Brighton and Hove,

Tues 26 March, 5.30-6.30pm, £5

Women's history tour guide Louise Peskett discusses the work of Drs Helen Boyle, Louisa Martindale, Octavia Wilberforce and Hastings-born Sophia Jex-Blake.

Sussex Nature Reserves,

Tues 9 April, 5.30-6.30pm, £5

Discover their history, habitats and wildlife, with Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Family History and DNA,

Tues 16 April, 2.30-3.30pm, £5

Genealogist Martin McDowell examines the implications of DNA testing for family historians.

Bookbinding and conservation workshops,

Tuesday 15 Jan, 12 Feb, 12 March, 16 April, 10am-4pm, £80 per day or £300 for all four

Come and spend a hands-on day in our Conservation Studio and find out how to care for your own 'archives', learn how to repair treasured, old books or make a handmade journal.

Beyond the Family Tree: Writing, Curating and Presenting your Family's Past, 8-week course, Sat 2, 9, 16, 23 Feb and 2, 9, 16 and 30 March, 10am-12.30pm, £180 total, including tea and coffee.

This creative writing course, led by author and life historian Shivaun Woolfson, will help you work imaginatively with material such as letters, photographs and objects from your family archives. No previous writing experience is necessary – all welcome!

Advance booking is recommended for all events as numbers are limited. Please see www.thekeep.info/events or call 01273 482349

