



# Friends of [the keep] Archives

Newsletter Autumn 2020

# Friends of The Keep Archives

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Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex

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## **Visit the Friends of The Keep Archives website at**

[www.fotka.org.uk](http://www.fotka.org.uk)

Contact the Membership Secretary at  
[membersfotka@gmail.com](mailto:membersfotka@gmail.com)

Registered charity number 1159372

### *Cover images:*

*Front: Jeremy Hutchinson at home  
with his first wife, Peggy Ashcroft,  
and daughter Eliza*

*Back: Jeremy Hutchinson QC circa 1961*

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## Contact The Keep

**Please visit The Keep website  
for up to date visiting  
information**

### **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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**Twitter:** @thekeeparchives

# Editorial and report from the AGM

At the time of writing, the Keep is temporarily closed. I am all the more grateful to the contributors to this edition of the Newsletter for helping to divert us in these difficult times. In particular, we are celebrating the acquisition by the University of Sussex of the archive of Jeremy Hutchinson, QC, which will find a home in The Keep. FoTKA was pleased to finance a small but important addition to the archive.

Members will know that the AGM was held as a paper exercise. I am glad to say that no objections were made either to the adoption of the Annual report and Accounts, nor to the reelection of Annette Shelford, Colin French, Sheena Parker and Phil Hamerton as trustees for new 3-year terms.

FoTKA responded to The Keep consultation on reducing opening hours to meet budgetary cuts. Bill Shelford wrote to Nick Skelton of East Sussex County Council, Chairman of the Keep Board, deploring these further cuts to The Keep's services and warning of serious longer term effects on its archival expertise. Bill copied his letter to Phelim MacCafferty, Leader of Brighton and Hove Council, to Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex County Council, and

to Adam Tickell, Vice Chancellor of Sussex University. The University and Brighton Council are of course partners in The Keep. All this correspondence is on the FoTKA website. We were heartened by Mr MacCafferty's personal commitment to The Keep, and by the recognition of the need to fund archival expertise properly. We will continue to press for a longer-term solution to the future of The Keep.

**Diana Hansen**

# News from The Keep

Following Government advice, and to ensure the safety of staff and visitors, The Keep will be closed from Thursday 5th November. While the public will be unable to visit the centre and view the archives during this period of closure, our reprographics and research services will continue to be available via our website. We will keep the website and social media updated with the latest news and we'll also respond to phone and email enquiries as quickly as possible.

Since our last update we had increased the number of daily visitors to ten, provided on-the-day productions and access to some Reference Room resources. While it's frustrating to have to close again we are in a good position to reopen quickly and smoothly as soon as we are able to do so.

The public consultation into the proposed reduction of opening hours has closed with over 250 responses received, mostly online. The project team will be analysing the data and presenting it to the Board later this month. We will share any news on this and the next stages of the Keep Sustainability Plan as soon as we are able.

The team have cleared the backlog of Reprographics work that had to be abandoned when the building closed in March and we expect the service to be very busy over the next couple of months. Ancestry Digital Operatives are on site, digitising Parish Registers, Electoral Registers, Probate and Wills. They are progressing well and will continue to work on site during lockdown so as to keep the project on track.

I'd like to thank all of our friends and colleagues for their hard work, patience and support during this period and we hope to be able to welcome visitors back on site as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Ceris Howard MA**

Team Manager Archive Services  
and The Keep

# Acquisitions 2019-2020

During the year FoTKA provided funding, on some occasions alongside national grant-giving bodies, for the purchase of 36 groups of documents, just over half of which related to Brighton and Hove. Our total outlay amounted to £2469, composed of individual grants ranging from £6.12 for a single letter to £900 for the final tranche of papers from the Lewes collection of the late Alan Shelley.

The outstanding single item, described in some detail in the Newsletter of Autumn 2019 and illustrated below, was the 1638 map of Ashes Farm in Icklesham, part of the estate of Thankful Frewen of Brickwall in Northiam, by the Sedlescombe mercer and part-time cartographer Giles Burton of Sedlescombe. Burton's hallmark was the use of metal stamps to reproduce the animals, men and





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houses with which his maps are liberally decorated, as well as the scrolled cartouches enclosing the acreage of each field. Burton clearly had no stamp for barns, which are inserted by hand. The map was bought on eBay for £1131, the price shared between FoTKA and the Friends of the National Libraries.

Significant among Brighton purchases were the results of our attempts to reconstitute the correspondence of the Brighton Commissioners, who managed the town before its incorporation as a borough in 1853, and of Thomas Attree and his successors, Brighton's most influential solicitors; both series had been dispersed by illicit sales in the 1960s and 70s.

The antiquarian collection of LM Bearman of Rye was picked up at Heathfield Auction and passed on for £78. It included material relating to his house, 20 Church Square, Rye which was previously The Jolly Sailor.

In August 2019 we purchased diaries of Joan Taylor of Eastbourne, and when further volumes of a Joan Maynard emerged on eBay, some quick research established that it was the same person. Our total outlay for the diaries, which cover the WW2 period, was £160.

We were offered a volume of copy contracts for the extension to the Lewes House of Correction in 1833

free of charge, but it seemed fair to reimburse the postage. This accession adds to our knowledge of the building, which was erected in 1793 but soon proved inadequate. The planned alterations of 1833 included 65 new cells, together with a chapel, wash-house and laundry.

There was a rather unfortunate background to the purchase of four early ledgers of Edward Hilder of Rye, ironmonger, covering the years 1836-1845. Heathfield Auctions were unwilling to take a telephone bid, the ESCC computer system forbids participation in online auctions and our reserve bid was unsuccessful. Perhaps inevitably, days later the books appeared on eBay at a greatly increased price. As is often the case, Ian Hilder negotiated a reduced price on our behalf, but the volumes did not come cheap.

We were fortunate to receive a tip-off from a colleague at another record office who spotted a 1953 drawing of proposed offices at Hollingbury, drawn by W G Phillips and Partners for Henry Clark and Sons. Brighton Borough Council must have been party to the development, as Bills of quantities of the same date are included in the archive of the Estates Department (DB/A 3/7). We purchased it at auction in Nottingham for a hammer price of £220, the bill



*Proposed offices at Hollingbury*

was paid and the document transferred to a local carrier for onward transmission to the Keep. Either because of a breakdown in communication or lockdown-induced confusion, our details were not supplied to the carrier, who in October contacted the auctioneer for details. A few phone calls later, all was resolved – the Nottingham carrier had it on their puzzles pile . so it rang an immediate bell - and after nearly 70 years the drawing,

reproduced here, resides a matter of miles from the site that it depicts.

It is still business as usual despite the lockdown, but details of our successes will have to wait until next year's annual report.

**Christopher Whittick,  
Anna Manthorpe and  
Andrew Bennett**

# Silk, society and scandal: the archive of Jeremy Hutchinson QC

Last month FoTKA alerted the University to the sale of a diary written by Mary and St John Hutchinson. We are delighted to record our gratitude to the Friends for not only highlighting the sale but also purchasing the diary for our collection. Mary Hutchinson was a writer, socialite and member of the Bloomsbury Group. Her husband, St John, was a barrister and politician. Written in 1910 and including cuttings of ephemera, the diary is of interest in its own right. However, the manuscript is of particular significance as it's a stray item from a recently acquired collection: the archive of Mary and St John's son, Jeremy Hutchinson, Baron Hutchinson of Lullington QC (1915 - 2017).

We're pleased to announce that, earlier in the year, the Hutchinson archive was allocated to the University of Sussex through the Acceptance in Lieu Scheme. The Scheme provides a mechanism by which nationally significant cultural property can be sold and made available to the public in lieu of the owner paying an inheritance tax.

Hutchinson was a celebrated barrister, considered by many of his generation to be the finest silk in practice at the criminal bar. He famously served on the team defending Penguin Books over their publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. The archive contains Hutchinson's annotated court transcripts from the trial, his lists of witnesses and correspondence. A rare signed first edition of Lawrence's novel was gifted to the barrister by his mother. It is inscribed by Mary 'In remembrance and honour of the great victory' and forms part of the collection.

It is said that Hutchinson was the model for John Mortimer's Rumpole. In a decades-long career he defended the director Michael Bogdanov of the National Theatre. Counsel for Mary Whitehouse had complained that an actor's penis was visible on stage during a performance of Bogdanov's production of *The Romans in Britain*. A private prosecution was brought, with the director being accused of having 'procured an act of gross indecency' contrary to the Sexual Offences Act of 1956. Bogdanov



faced the prospect of spending up to three years in prison. However, in a memorable moment, and to much laughter in court, Hutchinson thrust his clenched fist and protruding thumb through his gown and suggested that Whitehouse's star

witness may have been mistaken about what he had seen. Realising the game was up, the prosecution was dropped with both sides claiming the win - Hutchinson had ensured his client's freedom whilst Whitehouse, believing her point



*Photographs from the archive, including Jeremy in his rating's uniform, c.1940*

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made, perceived a victory of the moral sort.

When Christine Keeler was tried for perjury it was Hutchinson who defended her. He represented the drug-smuggler Howard Marks, the art forger Thomas Keating and the spies George Blake and John Vassall. Letters written to Hutchinson by Blake from Wormwood Scrubs have already been found and we hope for further discoveries once cataloguing work begins.

Away from his legal career, Hutchinson served in the Royal Navy during World War II. He was aboard HMS Kelly when it was sunk, an incident which inspired Noel Coward's famous piece of wartime propaganda *In Which We Serve*. As the Labour Party's candidate for Westminster in the 1945 general election his canvassing activities took him to 10 Downing Street where he asked to speak to the occupant, Winston Churchill.

Married to Peggy Ashcroft from 1940 to 1965 – their courtship began in Brighton where Ashcroft was appearing at the Theatre Royal – Hutchinson was well known to many writers, artists and public figures. The various events and relationships which were significant to Jeremy's life are well-represented in the archive. Also of great interest is the correspondence to

his parents from their wide circle of friends. Five letters from D.H. Lawrence to St John detail the seizure of his manuscripts, a curious foreshadowing to Jeremy's later representation of Penguin. The names of those who are represented in the archive reads like a Who's Who of twentieth century society and includes T.S. Eliot, Henri Matisse, Virginia Woolf, Stanley Spencer and Duncan Grant.

The archive is very much a family collection. Interestingly, initial investigations suggest there is no clear break between Jeremy's papers and those of his parents. Shared interests - in literature, art and theatre - are evident throughout the archive and many friendships remained in place. Jeremy, for instance, maintained his mother's close association with the Bloomsbury Group and was a regular and welcome visitor at Charleston. These social, cultural and even legal continuities give the archive particular depth and we look forward to making it available to researchers at The Keep.

**Richard Wragg**  
University of Sussex Special  
Collections

# A mismatch?

## Insights into a Collier marriage

Before starting work on some of the Collier letters during lockdown, I was aware that Cordelia Collier (1722-1779) married James Murray (1722-1794), the distinguished army officer and colonial governor. He was the fifth son of Alexander Murray, fourth Lord Elibank (1677-1736), and his wife, Elizabeth (1684-1756), the daughter of George Stirling, a surgeon and the MP for Edinburgh City. I imagined that this link with a distinguished family would have been welcomed by the bride's family.



*James Murray c.1767,  
National Portrait Gallery*

I wondered which daughter was being referred to when a letter of 1755 to John Collier from Philip Hyatt of the Custom House mentions that he is sorry that Collier's daughter married against his inclination (SAY 190). Daughter Mary had married Edward Milward the previous year, but this match was approved by Collier. The letter could only refer to the marriage of Cordelia and James in 1748 – seven years previously.

On further investigation, I found that the match was opposed by both families – by John Collier because of Murray's poor financial position, and by the Murrays because he was marrying below his rank. Collier was a wealthy man however, and one would have expected him to support his daughter's rise in social status, but the position seems to have been further complicated for political reasons. Murray's family did not support the Whig party, but the Duke of Newcastle was Collier's important patron.

I became rather intrigued by the story of the couple, who had met when Murray was stationed at Hastings. Parental support seems to

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have been lukewarm. Collier was in Bath at the time of the marriage at St Bride's Church, London in December 1748, and the wedding was not attended by her uncle William Cranston, who was also unwell. The groom's parents did not attend.

In the same month as the wedding, Collier is asked to use his influence with the Duke of Newcastle to avoid Murray being sent to join the regiment in Ireland. By February 1749 the couple are more reconciled to the move – the cost of living on Murray's pay will be cheaper. But the cost of furnishing a home is a problem – Murray writes that his wife will not be carried from barrack to barrack if he can help it - and asks for an advance of £600 of her fortune for this. He asks Collier to consider this otherwise they will be destitute of all the necessities for a family with little or no ready money (SAY 1926).

Collier's misgivings concerning the couple's financial situation seem to have been justified, and he is not keen to accede to their wishes. There is no hope of support from Murray's family who lost their fortune in the South Sea Bubble scheme; Cordelia writes that they have behaved *in the cruelest way*; they were asked to dine once and she will not go again unless they alter their behaviour towards her husband (SAY 1930). Relations

with Cordelia's family also become cool. On 14 February 1749 Murray writes that if the £600 cannot be granted *he will be reduced to a most deplorable situation which is that of getting out of the Army entirely for necessarys we must have and they must be only procured by the money destined for my Preferment of which vanishes with the means of attaining it and in such situation of such professions that of a military one is the most insupportable* (SAY 1935).

On 25 February Murray states that he can tell that he has incurred his father-in-law's displeasure; he does not deserve it, *but I am born under an unlucky Planet for tho no man endeavours more to please no body ever succeeded less. My own relations blame and dispise me for being so imprudent as to marry without bettering my circumstances....* Attempts have been made by Mrs Collier to irritate his wife against him *this is most unchristian and barbarous* (SAY 1938). At the same time Cordelia tells her mother that Murray often says himself that he might have made a better match (SAY 1939).

Cordelia then becomes unwell. On 4 April 1749 she writes to her parents that she has been ill but *not in the same situation as a great many married people*, quashing hopes that she might be pregnant (SAY 1944). On 15 April her husband writes that she is *in good spirits and never had*



*Cordelia Collier by Arthur Devis  
(Sayer family)*

*a better stomach*, but on 18 April he informs Collier that his wife has in fact safely recovered from smallpox and is to take her first purge. He had kept his wife's family in ignorance because he did not wish to *cause uneasiness*; they would certainly have been alarmed having lost their son John (Jacky) to the disease in 1732 (SAY 1949).

On 29 April Cordelia writes that she is fully recovered, and the main problem is that she feels hungry all the time - her physician has prescribed nothing but barley water and sage, and asses' milk every morning. Despite her recovery, one does wonder what effect the disease

had upon this young woman of 27 in the first months of marriage. James states that Cordelia had not 100 pocks (or pockmarks) upon the whole body, ten of which only on the face, but Cordelia herself states that she had not 200 all over her. It seems unlikely that she avoided any disfigurement.

Cordelia convalesced in Knightsbridge for air, asses' milk and a view of the fireworks (for this last advantage it was preferred to other places proposed). This is a reference to the premiere of Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks* on 27 April 1749, which was attended by James in person and Cordelia from her bedroom window (SAY 1951). The first performance was not a complete success; Cordelia believed that it did not completely meet people's expectations. The rockets were very beautiful but other parts of it were greatly spoiled by one of the wings of the pavilion constructed in Green Park catching fire and causing great confusion (SAY 1952).

The fireworks were also a disappointment to Murray: *no more than five parts out of the thirteen play'd off, and these too in such confusion that the spectators were little satisfied as their expectations were greatly rais'd... One of the pavilions took fire (which was consumed) and the same accident happening twice*



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*to the grand machine [for letting off the fireworks] occasioned their disappointment, to the inexpressible mortification of thousands, who came hundreds of miles to see little more than some beautiful rockets* (SAY 1953).

By July 1749 the couple have travelled to Ireland to join Murray's regiment. The couple visit a holy well near Kilkenny to see miracles performed by the priest *the horror and distress there is beyond description, there was at least eight thousand people and not a shoe or stocking amongst them* (SAY 1958). Cordelia enjoys the military social life but not the climate – in the middle of August she writes that there has not been a day without rain since she has been in Waterford.

These glimpses into the marriage provide an incomplete picture - I have only quoted letters which I catalogued and there is more to be told. The story does not have a particularly happy ending. In 1754 James and Cordelia returned to England and lived in the west country. In 1757 Murray was posted to Canada, where he served with General Wolfe. He became military governor of Quebec in 1760, and the first civil governor in 1763; he was recalled in 1766. There seems to have been some estrangement and Cordelia did not accompany him abroad, although the couple lived

together at Beauport in Hollington (the estate had been purchased in 1762) on his return.

In 1772 Murray became Lieutenant-General, and in 1774 Governor of Minorca. Cordelia joined him but was not in good health and had to be sent home. She died shortly after her return to Beauport in 1779. The marriage was childless. James Murray married his second wife Ann Witham in 1780, by whom he had issue.

**Anna Manthorpe**

East Sussex Record Office

# Spanish Flu – Brighton's experience of a past pandemic

If you have an interest in history, the Covid-19 outbreak will almost certainly have prompted thoughts about previous health crises, including the lethal Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-19. Some of the steps taken by the authorities at the time to contain the outbreak certainly feel very familiar in post-Lockdown Britain.

*Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How it Changed the World* by science journalist Laura Spinney was published in 2017, and it makes fascinating reading today. Spinney writes: 'As soon as the [Spanish] flu had become reportable and the fact of the pandemic had been acknowledged, a raft of social distancing measures were put in place – at least in countries that had the resources to do so.' These ranged from the closure of schools, theatres and places of worship and the banning of mass gatherings, to restrictions on use of public transport and the creation of isolation wards in hospitals for infected patients. Public information campaigns advised people to avoid crowds and to wash their hands regularly. Then, as now, there were diverging opinions about

the effectiveness of face masks in reducing transmission of infection; there were also problems enforcing some of these measures, and debate about how far the state should go in restricting the rights of individuals and prioritising public health at the expense of the economy.

But what about the local area? What can the records held at The Keep tell us about the impact of Spanish Flu on East Sussex and Brighton & Hove? A good place to start is Jaime Kaminski's 'A Terrible Toll of Life: The Impact of the 'Spanish Influenza' Epidemic on Brighton, 1918-19'. This detailed but accessible analysis, published in *Sussex Archaeological Collections, Volume 147*, explores mortality rates, steps taken to combat the outbreak, and local press coverage, among other things. Kaminski points out that, thanks to its population density in 1918, 'Brighton was harbouring ideal conditions for the spread of epidemic disease,' and his research suggests that the wards with the densest occupation (St John's, Hanover and St Peter's) were worst affected.

Health reports held in The Keep's archives are a great source of

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statistical information, but the reported figures should be interpreted with care. Kaminski points out that there was no test for influenza in 1918-1919, so an accurate diagnosis wasn't always made; in some cases, the virus may have caused complications and contributed to other diseases which were cited as the cause of death. In Brighton in 1918-19, for example, there was a rise in deaths relating to pneumonia, bronchitis and pulmonary tuberculosis, as well as a significant increase in fatal cases of

flu. In Lewes, the health report for 1918 lists influenza as the greatest single cause of death among civilians in the borough, followed by pulmonary tuberculosis.

What is known is that in its most virulent phase, Spanish Flu was particularly dangerous for young adults, aged 25-35. This may have been because they lacked immunity from previous epidemics, but whatever the reason, the funeral accounts of Brighton undertakers Attree and Kent show significant

INFLUENZA.

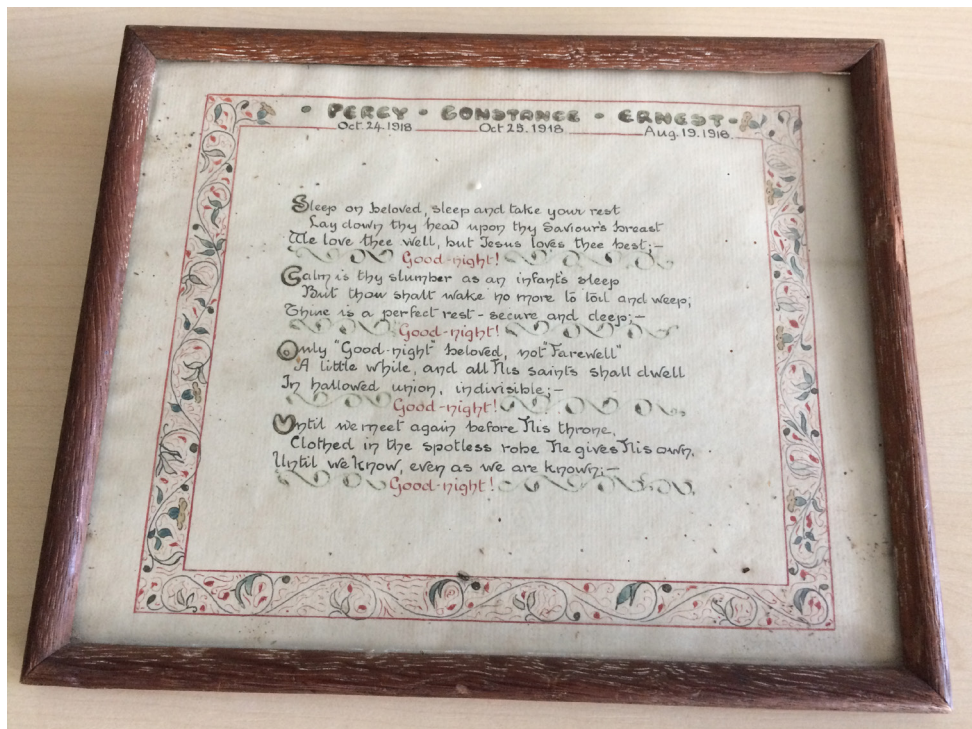
A full description of the outbreak and the steps taken to combat it are given in the Annual Report for 1918. The table below shews the age groups affected in 1918 and 1919 :—

	Deaths from Influenza.	0-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75	Total.
Actual Figures.	Years 1890-1899	47	12	22	28	53	72	110	143	116	603
	Year 1918	43	40	61	89	51	32	19	23	9	367
	Year 1919	17	9	14	42	10	23	19	21	12	167
Per-centage.	Years 1890-1899	8	2	4	5	9	12	18	24	18	100
	Years 1918-1919	11	9	14	25	12	10	7	8	4	100

TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME.

The staff includes the part time ...

Extract from Brighton's Health Report for 1919, showing age groups affected by Spanish Flu in 1918 and 1919 (DB/E/1/5)



Framed water colour verse commemorating the deaths of Constance, Percy and Ernest Rogerson from Spanish Flu (ACC 10672/3/6)

numbers of people in this age group dying in October and November 1918. And in another echo of the Covid-19 pandemic, medical staff were seriously affected, with many local hospitals treating their own nurses. In the autumn of 1918, the *Sussex Express* mourned the deaths from influenza of nurses Esther Horscroft, 37, of Uckfield, and Josephine McNulty, 27, an Irish nurse working at the Brighton County Borough Asylum in Haywards Heath. Elsewhere, *Pavilion Blues*,

the magazine produced at the Royal Pavilion military hospital, reported the sudden death from influenza of 19-year-old volunteer nurse Marjorie Grundy, while the Brighton District Nursing Association also recorded a number of nurses succumbing to the virus. And, of course, there were many tragic cases of troops surviving the war but dying from flu, either on their return home or in military hospitals, in Prisoner of War camps or at sea. As Rose Collis points out in her book *Death and the City*,

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‘Brighton was, as ever, a tragic microcosm of the ravages wrought.’

Other insights can be found in the archives. The [school diary for the Convent of the Holy Child Jesus in St Leonard’s on Sea](#) records on 7 October 1918 that most of the school got Spanish Flu, with as many as 60 at one time bed-ridden, while school closures were reported in places such as Uckfield, Barcombe and Ticehurst.

The pandemic was under-reported at the time, particularly during the first wave, but during the autumn of 1918, Brighton newspapers carried a number of tragic stories about whole families struck down with the flu, while the *Sussex Express* reported deaths from influenza in towns and villages across the county, including Lewes, Buxted and East Hoathly. Lewes residents Arthur Rogerson and his wife Elizabeth had five children, and [their family papers](#) include a framed decorative handwritten verse (photo on page 17) in memory of three of them – Percy, Constance and Ernest Rogerson – young adults who died in 1918, also victims of influenza. Ernest succumbed to the virus on 19 August, while Constance, only

24 and recently married, died on 25 October, the day after her brother Percy.

It would be a mistake to compare the Spanish Flu and Covid-19 pandemics too closely, but this is a timely reminder of the value of archives, with their mix of official and personal testimony, in enabling us to understand the past. The Keep’s archivists are keen to collect material reflecting local people’s experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic, for the benefit of future generations. If you have been keeping a diary or taking photographs, have collected printed material or have been involved in local projects supporting those affected, please see the [‘Life Under Lockdown’](#) blog for further information, or contact The Keep by email at [thekeep@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:thekeep@eastsussex.gov.uk).

**Kate Elms**

Brighton and Hove Museums





