



Friends of [the keep] Archives

Newsletter Spring 2018

Friends of The Keep Archives

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Visit the Friends of The Keep Archives website at

www.fotka.org.uk

Contact the Membership Secretary at
membersfotka@gmail.com

Registered charity number 1159372

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

Post: The Keep, Woollards Way,
Brighton, BN1 9BP

Telephone: 01273 482349

Email: thekeep@eastsussex.gov.uk

Website: www.thekeep.info

Twitter: @thekeeparchives

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Cover image:

*J C Stadler after Humphry Repton,
coloured aquatint with overlay, from
'Humphry Repton's Designs for the
Pavillon at Brighton, 1808'
(Royal Pavilion and Brighton Museums)*

Editor's introduction

In this edition I am pleased to include two articles from FoTKA members. Janet Pennington's memories of her time at the Brighton Medico-Chirurgical Society were sparked off by the arrival of their archives at The Keep. An article by Sally and Peter Varlow records their painstaking research on the origins of their fascinating house, which you can read more about in their book.

Anna Manthorpe describes a real highlight in recent acquisitions, the magic lantern slides of the erection of the Beachy Head lighthouse. Their sale at an auction house in Cornwall led to an extraordinary display of local pride and savvy fundraising, as we raised the large sum being sought. Success was crowned with great publicity for the Keep on local media. I am delighted to include an article describing the work which the curators of the Mass Observation archive have been doing in prisons, which illustrates how archives can be made to speak to everyone. By the way, don't forget that 12 May is Diary Day for Mass Observation – record your day for the benefit and amusement of future generations. Check out the MO website for details (www.massobservation.org.uk).

Alexandra Loske, seen here with one of his Red Books, marks the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton with an article on his sadly unrealised designs for the Royal Pavilion.



With this newsletter we are enclosing an important letter about data protection issues. New rules to protect how we look after the information we hold on you come into force in May. The letter asks you to fill in the form allowing us to continue to keep this information. Without your consent, we will no longer be able to keep your names and addresses, and we will not be able to contact you. You will not get this newsletter!

Friends of The Keep Archives

I hope that you will also think about how you might be able to help FoTKA. In this newsletter we are advertising for a new Membership Secretary and a new Visits Coordinator, as Jan Boyes and Sheena Parker relinquish their responsibilities (but not their committee membership). Please think whether you have time to fit in either of these posts, or pass on the information to a friend.

We have been rethinking with The Keep the organisation of their increasingly popular talks and events. We would like to recruit a roster of members who would be available to help with stewarding the events, providing a visible FoTKA presence and, we hope, recruiting new members. The Keep have agreed to allow a discount to FoTKA members on some of these talks; the programme, including more on the Beachy Head slides and on Humphry Repton, appears at the end of this Newsletter,

Any member of the committee would be delighted to hear from you if you can help in any of these ways. Contact us at the Keep.

FoTKA exists to help the Keep acquire and conserve the widest range of important archival material. Over the short period since FoTKA took over from FESRO, we have been delighted to increase significantly the assistance we have been able to give, without increasing the level of subscriptions. This cannot go on for ever, and we intend to increase subscriptions from April 2019 to £18 for a single member and £25 for joint membership. I hope you will feel that this is still a good investment in the future of the heritage of East Sussex.

Lastly, Bill Shelford has contributed an article below, setting out how you can help to secure that heritage through a gift in your will.

Diana Hansen

Archives need legacies

This article is by our Vice Chair, Bill Shelford; Bill is a retired solicitor, a Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex and, in addition to his longstanding connection with FoTKA, is Chair of the Trustees of Chailey Heritage Foundation which provides education and support for children and young people with very complex difficulties. The Foundation's 100 year archives are stored at the Keep.

The Friends of the Keep Archives (FoTKA) support the work at the Keep in many ways. Our main purpose is to help finance the gathering and preservation of the heritage of East Sussex and of Brighton and Hove by saving historic and often beautiful documents which might otherwise have disappeared into private hands or gone abroad. At a cost of thousands of pounds, we have helped to save medieval charters with elaborate seals, and have reunited family papers previously scattered; at the other end of the scale, keeping a constant watch on eBay yields deeds, diaries, photographs and postcards which we can buy for a few pounds. We also support the work of conservation, of cataloguing and of recording material in a manner that makes it accessible to researchers, amateur or professional.

None of our work would be possible without the active support of our members through your subscriptions and response to appeals. We are very grateful for that support.



Bill Shelford

My purpose in writing now is to ask you to consider if you might build on your generosity by leaving us a gift in your Will, to enable future generations to benefit from the Keep's long-term mission to educate, inform and entertain through the historic heritage of our county. However large or small, your gift will be truly appreciated. Because we are a charity, leaving us a legacy can help to reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax payable on your estate.

Bequests have already enabled us to support projects and acquire new and exciting documents. A gift of £10,000 enabled East Sussex Record Office to conserve, catalogue and make available

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a huge local history collection relating to the Ouse Valley parish of Piddinghoe, and a similar sum provided an endowment for the papers of a Sussex author. A gift in the will of a long-time user of the office enabled us to buy a detailed survey, undertaken in 1683, of the Wealden parish on which she had worked over the course of several decades. Small bequests are welcome – a gift of £500 from a user in America, who had used the office only remotely, helped us acquire essential reference books for the office library.

I want to make important commitments to you on behalf of FoTKA. We will always respect your privacy. If you want to, you can tell us that you have left us a legacy, but this is entirely up to you. Of course, you can change your mind at any time, and we will not ask any questions. If you would like us to publicise your generosity, we will be very glad to do so, but equally we will treat any gift with sensitivity.

I would advise you always to consult your solicitor if you are considering changes to your Will. But I would be very happy to talk to you in complete confidence if that would be helpful. Please contact me at The Keep and I will arrange a meeting.

Bill Shelford

Possible wordings in a Will are set out below:

I give the sum of £x to the Friends of the Keep Archives (UK Charity number 1159372) of The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton BN1 9BP to be applied to the general purposes of the Charity. The receipt of the Treasurer or other officer for the time being of the Charity shall be a complete discharge to my Executors.

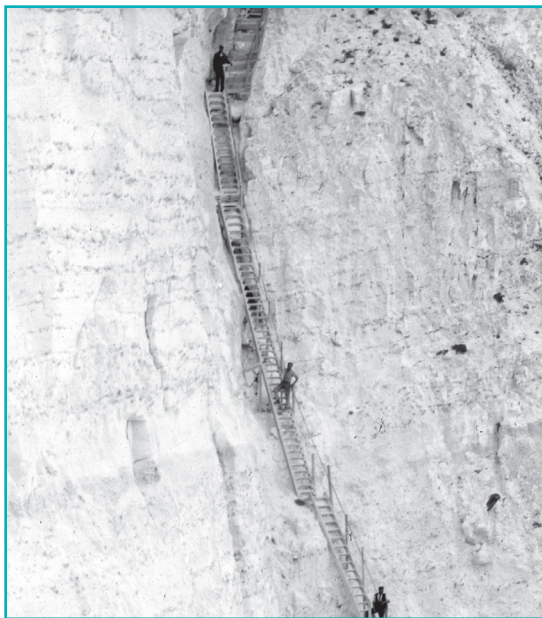
I give (x% or the whole) of my real and personal estate which I can dispose of by Will in any manner that I think proper to the Friends of the Keep Archives (UK Charity number 1159372) of The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton BN1 9BP to be applied to the general purposes of the Charity. The receipt of the Treasurer or other officer for the time being of the Charity shall be a complete discharge to my Executors.

The Building of Beachy Head Lighthouse

Last November we were equally intrigued and alarmed to discover that over 70 lantern slides illustrating the construction of the Beachy Head Lighthouse were coming up for sale in a Penzance auction house. Our concern was that the lantern slides were likely to excite a great deal of interest – as was proved by the amount of publicity generated – and we had only ten days to raise a sum of several thousand pounds.

Beachy Head is an iconic feature of the landscape of East Sussex, and it was impossible to let this record of our maritime heritage go without a struggle. The site of a naval engagement in 1690 and celebrated by Eric Ravilious (1903-1942) in a watercolour of 1939, it also provides an element of the frieze which decorates the external faces of The Keep.

The odds did seem to be stacked against us. FoTKA as usual came up trumps, but we were also dependent on external grants. The V&A Purchase Grant Fund understandably requires that potential purchases are inspected, but Penzance is a long way from East Sussex. We are indebted to the curator of the Penlee House Gallery and Museum in Penzance for agreeing to visit the auction house on our behalf.



Ladders down the cliff, 1901 (AMS 7255/1/13)

We had perhaps underestimated local interest in the slides, and when Christopher Whittick entered the bidding on 30 November, he was backed by enthusiastic Eastbourne and district online donors, including members of the Beachy Head Lighthouse Save the Stripes Campaign, as well as FoTKA, the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Friends of the National Libraries and The Corporation of Trinity House. We are enormously grateful to them all.



Workmen in the cage on the cable way, c1900 (AMS 7255/1/21)

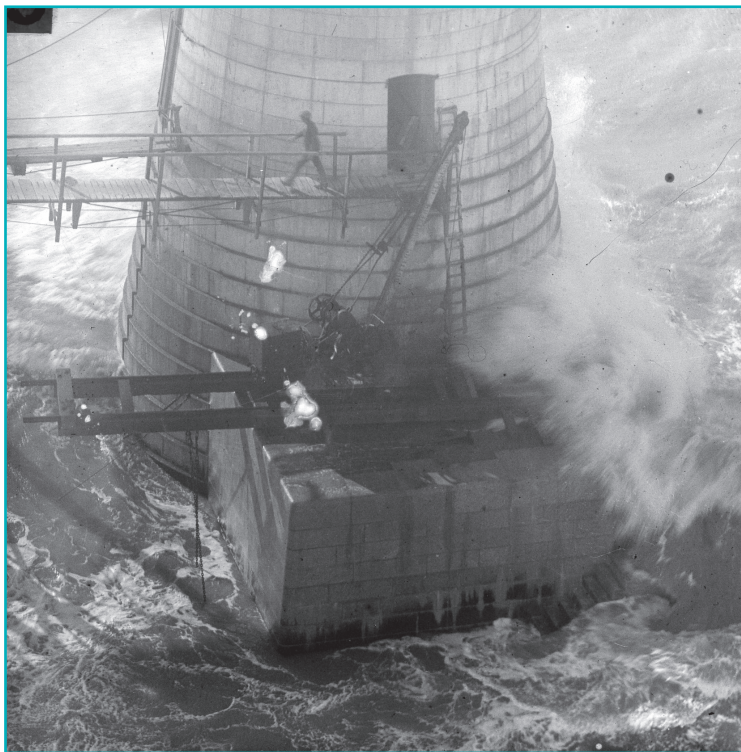
We were still by no means confident, and everyone was relieved and delighted when the slides were knocked down to East Sussex Record Office for £4400 hammer (£5350 including premium and VAT). There was much local publicity - the purchase featured twice in local television news – and the images could be seen on the façade of The Keep using our outdoor projector.

It is clear that the slides were used to give lectures, but the identity of their owner is uncertain. One possibility is that they belonged to the architect of the lighthouse, Sir Thomas Matthews (1849-1930) the Engineer-in-Chief at Trinity House. He was born in Penzance and it is tempting to see a link with the collection ending up at an auction house there. Another candidate is

Albert Havelock Case, the resident engineer, but he lived in Eastbourne.

The lighthouse took two years to construct and was first lit on 2 October 1902. The slides demonstrate a great feat of civil engineering. Matthews designed over a dozen lighthouses, and Beachy Head was considered his most notable achievement. There was already a lighthouse – Belle Tout – in existence, but the top of the cliff was often shrouded in mist and the structure was also considered to be in danger of collapse. In 1899 the decision was taken to replace it, and in the following year work started on a new site, about 165 metres seawards from the base of cliffs. The building involved the construction of a coffer dam and a cableway running from the top of the cliff; there was also a sea stage and landing stage. Construction of the tower required 3,660 tons of Cornish granite which was mined, shaped and numbered at the De Lank quarry near St Breward in North Cornwall.

The bravery of the workmen is evident. Descending the cliff using the rather flimsy system of ladders was hazardous given the unstable nature of the rock. Men are pictured travelling on the cableway without a hard hat to be seen, and high up on the tower with only a flimsy rope barrier for protection. They are shown in the coffer dam around the foundations – work did not stop until the tide made it impossible. The men could work only laboriously with picks and shovels; the use of explosives might bring the cliffs down.



Work in stormy weather, c1901 (AMS 7255/1/43)

Most of the photographs were taken when the weather was fine, but work continued over the winter when conditions must often have been exceedingly harsh. A newspaper article tells the experiences of workman Alexander Mockett (AMS 7255/2/3) who recounts that the cable car once stopped working in a blizzard and the men were left swinging, sometimes knocking against the cliff, until they were rescued. But apparently the worst injury sustained during the project was when someone demonstrated his facility with a pick and put it through his big toe.

This record of the course of its building can be viewed on The Keep Reference Room computers.

Anna Manthorpe,
Archivist, East Sussex Record Office

To mark this exciting acquisition, there will be a talk at The Keep, with a representative from Trinity House and a slide show, on Wednesday 23 May from 6-8pm. Tickets cost £9 for FoTKA members and £10 for non-members, including a glass of wine or soft drink, so do come and celebrate with us. Booking and payment in advance is essential; for further details see under Talks and Events at The Keep.

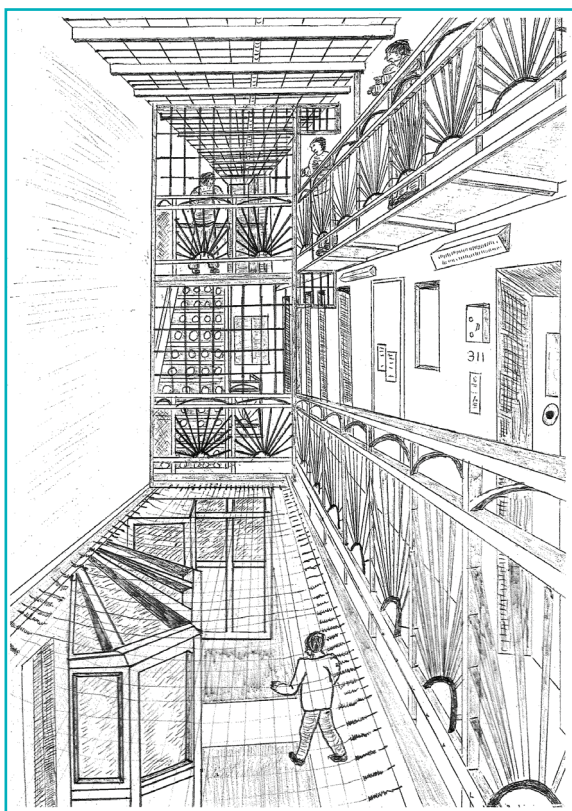
'Beyond Boxes': engagement with archives at HMP Lewes

Since September 2016, I have been involved in Beyond Boxes, an archival access and engagement project at the Mass Observation Archive. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have been working to open up archives to the wider community and continue the work of Mass Observation by recording everyday life in Britain.

One of our project partners is HMP Lewes. We have been working with them to demonstrate the value which archives can offer to prisoners' education and learning and how prisoners can capture their everyday life for the archive. As part of this, we ran a number of outreach activities within the prison library, including the annual May 12th Diary Day, an additional diary day on December 3rd, a conservation workshop and an exhibition.

With the support of novelist and writer Kim Sherwood, we also ran creative writing workshops to introduce group members to archives. In these workshops, the men used copied archive material to inspire their writing. Each week, we explored writing styles such as a letter, diary, fiction, life writing and poetry, and discussed a number of

topics: feminism, Virginia Woolf, mental health and recordkeeping. In March of this year, a selected number of these writings went on exhibition at the prison library and an event, attended by prison staff and prisoners, was held to celebrate the success of the workshops and the contribution made by all involved.



Sketch of HMP Lewes landing

Through these sessions, the writing group also collaborated with the archive on commissioning a Mass Observation Project Directive questionnaire on the topic of prison. This questionnaire was sent out to the archive's national panel of writers and those at HMP Lewes in autumn 2017. The responses, along with the personal writings from the workshops, are now deposited with the archive and will provide a unique insight into prison life in 21st century Britain.

The Beyond Boxes project will finish later this year, but to ensure visitors to the prison library can engage with archives we created a number of resources. This included a Beyond Boxes Books of Basics, and an Exercise Book. The former of these books is a guide to basic English grammar and teaches the reader about full stops, capital letters, apostrophes and exclamation marks through practical exercises. Accompanying this is the Exercise Book. Inspired by Mass Observation this book contains writing exercises that encourage the reader to explore various writing styles and to think about how they can develop their writing skills and learning.

This partnership with HMP Lewes has provided an invaluable experience for

MASS OBSERVATION CREATIVE WRITING MANIFESTO

Writing is frustrating. Writing is calming.
Writing is scary. Writing is peaceful. Writing is
exposing. Writing is cathartic. Writing is trouble.
Writing is release.

Fear of judgement makes writing difficult.
Fear of getting it wrong. But there is no such
thing as wrong. Your writing is faultless.

Writing is individual. Writing allows us to be
self-reflective. Writing enables self-expression.
Writing is confidential.

Writing can tell us how people lived in different
times. Writing can show us how society has
evolved. Writing is part of watching the years
go by.

Writing can offer advice. Writing gives us control.
Writing lets us be thoughtless.
Writing gives us ownership.

BY WRITERS IN HMP LEWES

the Beyond Boxes team and for the men involved in the workshops. In running these workshops, it has demonstrated the possibilities of outreach in an archival context. But more importantly, this work has ensured that experiences of everyday life in prison have been captured by those who live it, which in turn will provide a unique resource for generations to come.

Anthony McCoubrey
Beyond Boxes Project Coordinator
The Mass Observation Archive

Memories of the Brighton & Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society

The Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society is one of the oldest such societies in the UK. It was established in 1847 by the Society's first President, Dr William King, who was also a founder member of the Brighton Cooperative Society. Regular meetings were held in the Music Room of the Royal Pavilion, before the move to the Brighton General Hospital site. The aim of the Society, which is still going strong, is to provide a forum where doctors and medical students can meet and hear speakers on a variety of topics, both medical and non-medical. As noted in the last Acquisitions Report, records of the Society (AMS 7216) were recently deposited in The Keep.

Between 1960 and 1964 I worked as secretary to the Lady Almoner's at Brighton General Hospital, at the top of Elm Grove near the Sussex Post-Graduate Medical Centre where the BSMCS had its HQ. I became their part-time secretary for about eighteen months in 1967-1968. I much enjoyed my two mornings a week. I was able to spend some time looking at books in the library, even though they often put me off my lunch. A further hazard was accepting a lift to Seven Dials from a long-retired nonagenarian ophthalmologist or ophthalmic surgeon – a terrifying drive, as we hurtled down the very steep Elm Grove towards the Lewes Road.

My predecessor had written the Society's Minute Book in a beautiful copper-plate hand. My own handwriting needs to be seen to be believed (perhaps accounting for my having enjoyed teaching palaeography for the much-lamented CCE at the University of Sussex for many years). As I would be taking the minutes of Committee Meetings I confessed that I would have to type the minutes and stick them into the book. This caused some concern, but was allowed; I look forward to tracing my minute-taking in the book when in due course it is deposited.

The biggest task was organising the Society's Annual Dinner for the membership of about 150 surgeons and physicians. The Dinner was to be held at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton, and invitations specified Evening Dress, Wing Collars and War Medals. I laid out an enormous table plan in my office, with moveable name tags as it seemed that none of the attendees wished to sit next to each other – as soon as one table seemed to be arranged, someone came in and said "I'm not sitting next to that old b..... (male or female) – put me somewhere else". The Committee worried whether, as I was their first married secretary since their foundation, they should invite my husband to the dinner (they did). I shall not forget the experience of dining beneath that huge chandelier in the Royal Pavilion,



Dr Max Cooper of BSMCS displays the Society's archive in the Keep

in a long dress with evening gloves borrowed from my mother, surrounded by members of the medical profession. There were several after-dinner speeches, but of the many medical jokes that were told the only one I can remember was about a gynaecologist who wall-papered his hall through his letterbox – luckily, time draws a veil over the name of the speaker.

Six months later I resigned from this interesting part-time job. I could not contemplate organising another Annual Dinner at the Royal Pavilion – that table plan! I can see it now...

Janet Pennington

Humphry Repton's Royal Pavilion Red Book

One of the most beautiful and intriguing illustrated books published in the early 19th century shows us the Royal Pavilion Estate as it might have been, if George IV had not changed his mind. It is a printed version of designs by Humphry Repton (1752 – 1818), commissioned by the then Prince of Wales for the complete orientalisation of the existing neo-classical Marine Pavilion (built in 1787 to designs by Henry Holland) and the surrounding gardens. Repton was an important figure in the larger context of the Royal Pavilion's history and development. He published widely on architecture, design and landscape gardening, at times challenging aesthetic ideas of the Picturesque, at other times embracing them.

Repton embarked on a career in landscape gardening in 1788, shortly after the death of the famous landscape designer Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 1783. In an attempt to fill the vacuum created by the death of Brown, he quickly established himself as the leading landscape designer in Britain, working for a wide range of clients. Repton soon became known for lavishly produced portfolios in quarto or folio format, known as Red Books because many of them were bound in red morocco. These comprised watercolour paintings of 'before and after' views of gardens, landscape settings and buildings. For maximum visual effect the 'after' views (Repton's own designs) were typically revealed by lifting an overlay glued onto the watercolour sheet. A total number



The general view from the Pavilion



West front of the Pavilion towards the garden

of around 125 Red Books have been identified, one of which is that of the Royal Pavilion estate and dates from 1806. It survives in the Royal Collection.

Repton was briefly involved with the Royal Pavilion in the summer of 1795, possibly for the design of a conservatory and in collaboration with Nash, and between 1797 and 1802 to advise on groundwork concerning the extensions to Holland's building by P.F. Robinson. In c.1796 Repton went into partnership with the then relatively unknown John Nash.

In November 1805, after the completion of William Porden's Stables, the Prince of Wales once again invited Repton to produce designs for the transformation of the Royal Pavilion gardens and the

palace itself, having rejected earlier Chinese-style designs by Holland (1801) and Porden (c.1805). Repton worked feverishly on this prestigious royal commission and presented the Royal Pavilion Red Book less than a month later. It consisted of fantastical and elaborate Indian-style designs for the estate, complete with 'before and after' views. His ideas for the estate included aviaries and orangeries, a geometrical pond reflecting the Moorish features of Porden's stables, a glass corridor surrounding the entire western side of the estate, a protruding viewing platform with telescopes at the North front, some Chinese-inspired hipped roofs, and dainty flower beds on the Eastern lawns. According to Repton, George responded enthusiastically to

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the designs, but despite giving him hope of 'immediate execution', the project was never realised, allegedly because Maria Fitzherbert (George's long-standing mistress) commented on the financial implications of the ambitious plans.

Short of commissions in the difficult years of the Napoleonic wars, in 1808 Repton had the Pavilion designs engraved by J.C. Stadler and decided to publish the plans for the Royal Pavilion, together with a treatise on architectural styles. He dedicated the book to George, perhaps in the vain hope of re-kindling his interest. The Royal Pavilion portfolio is the only one of Repton's Red Books that was ever published in its entirety.

A few years later, in 1815, John Nash was the lucky one who was commissioned to transform the Royal Pavilion Estate. By then, George was Prince Regent and Napoleon had been defeated. While Repton never really recovered from having missed out on this royal commission, Nash would turn Holland's Marine Pavilion into the oriental fantasy palace George had envisaged, and would later publish his own book on the project. Time and circumstances were simply in favour of Nash.

Alexandra Loske,
Curator, Royal Pavilion archives



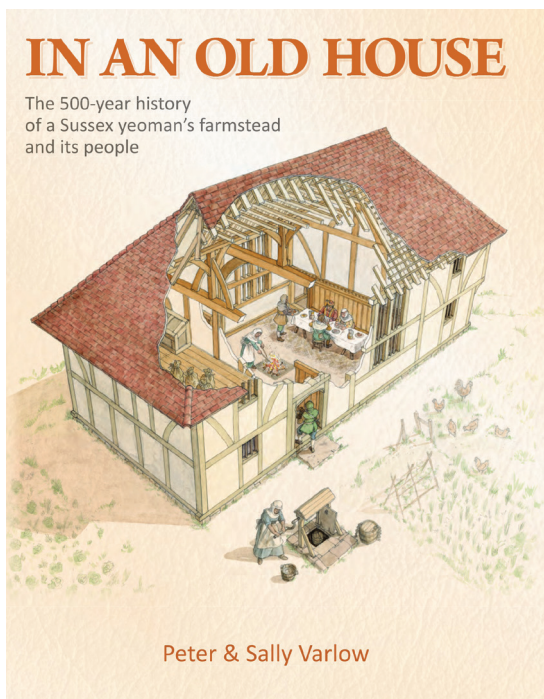
To mark the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death, Alexandra Loske will give a talk at The Keep on Repton and his designs for the Royal Pavilion Estate. The talk will take place on Thursday 21 June 2018 from 6-7.30pm. Both Repton's designs for the Pavilion and an original Red Book will be on display during the talk. Tickets cost £9 for FoTKA members and £10 for non-members, and the ticket price includes a glass of sparkling wine, so do join us! Booking and payment in advance is essential; for further details see under Talks and Events at The Keep.

Illustrations from J C Stadler after Humphry Repton, coloured aquatint with overlay, from 'Humphry Repton's Designs for the Pavillon at Brighton, 1808' (Royal Pavilion and Brighton Museums)

Finding 'an old house' at The Keep

We were first in, and last out, on the day the old Maltings ESRO HQ closed for good in 2013, and we took it as a compliment when an assistant smiled as we left and called us 'probably the most ambitious researchers' he'd seen there. He might have been right. More to the point, we were way out of our depth.

Our mission, like many users of ESRO, was to discover the history of our house. In 2009 we had reunited two semi-detached cottages, 1 and 2 Coppard's Bridge, Chailey, into the one hall house it had once been. As a prelude to repair work, we commissioned a survey by David and Barbara Martin, and then tree-ring dating, that determined it to be a timber-framed hall house of c1473. Most ancient houses only attract research studies if there is already – as architectural historians put it – 'light shining through the keyhole', in the form of some documentary evidence. Coppard's was in almost complete darkness. Beyond 20th-century deeds, we had nothing to go on. Apart from a good understanding of the standing structure, we had only a faint familiarity with early manuscripts, a glimmer of school Latin which failed to re-ignite, and a reasonable grasp of history – but not the local sort. However, a near total lack of relevant skills did not deter us either; and we could not have foreseen



how helpful ESRO staff and then the combined Keep team would be for the next six years.

Understanding the timber frame took two years of thorough recording, and schooling from experts. It also allowed us to follow Oliver Rackham's pioneering 1972 methodology to assess how many trees had produced its timbers, and how much woodland the builder had needed (143 trees from 4 acres of woodland grown over 50 years). The effort involved explained why only a handful of scholars have attempted this since then.

Discovering the identity of its early owners took longer: we knew it had been part of the neighbouring Ades estate before 1933, when the estate was auctioned off in lots, but whatever estate papers there may have been were lost. The earliest records were the 1327 Lay Subsidy Rolls, indicating that the Coppards were then already well established in the parish; and an inquest dated 1507 named the bridge barely 50 yards from the house as 'Coppardisbrige'. It seemed a reasonable chance that only 34 years earlier the Coppards had built our house.

Meanwhile, ESRO moved to The Keep. At first we mourned the Maltings and its setting, but not for long. The new online catalogue transformed our research, and the combination of parish registers, wills and manor court books enabled us to build an 8ft-wide pedigree of 10 generations of the family from 1539 until the early-18th century, now lodged with The Keep and Sussex Family History Group.

Assuming the Coppards built the house, they occupied it first as yeoman farmers and latterly as glove-makers until 1659, when William 'the Elder glover' bought another property only yards away across the bridge. More recent records showed the house was part of the neighbouring Ades estate by 1780, which had been owned by John Newnham, his grandson George Goring and his daughters from 1694 until 1756, the Hay sisters from Glyndebourne, Admiral John Markham, and the Ingrams from Rottingdean. Coppards' occupants

were a succession of their servants and farm hands, including members of the Pointing, Heaseman, Gatland and Davey families. But the century following 1659 remained a closed book until Christopher Whittick emailed us from the Huntington Library in California with an indenture rehearsing a 1706 mortgage on the house, taken out by Goring.

We decided six years' research was enough: whether Newnham or Goring had bought the Coppards' house would have to remain unknown, and we finally published our findings, *In an Old House*, in September 2017. Not least, the book uses a wide range of scattered sources to demonstrate the impact over 500 years of social and political changes upon the household, the surrounding residents of the parish and the Weald as a whole – and may perhaps encourage others to try similar research.

Peter and Sally Varlow

Sally Varlow passed away in March after a long illness, and will be sadly missed by all her fellow researchers and staff at The Keep.

In an Old House (Pomegranate Press, Lewes, 320 pages, £30) at bookshops including Sussex Archaeology Society at Barbican House, Lewes, and the Weald & Downland Living Museum and www.pomegranate-press.co.uk/sussex

News from The Keep



Pen and wash copy by PG Schorer of an engraved drawing of the north front of Bodiam Castle by Edward Twopenny, 1805

East Sussex Record Office is participating in Small Bills and Petty Finance, a national project led by Keele University which aims to recruit volunteers to calendar the vouchers submitted to the Overseers of the Poor by tradesmen and shopkeepers to provide goods and services for the relief of the parish poor. Only three counties are involved, and in East Sussex the parishes of Ashburnham, Ewhurst, East Hoathly, Ringmer and Winchelsea, all rich in this kind of documents, have been chosen to initiate the project. Elizabeth Hughes is going to be involved – it will be very good to see her at The Keep again.

The two Prodigy text-reading and magnification machines, one purchased with a grant from FoTKA, have been put to good use by visually impaired visitors and others who want to enlarge and view difficult-to-read documents.

Since the autumn The Keep has put on a wide range of events, workshops and lectures, covering topics from bookbinding classes to Sussex Women's Suffrage. The events programme goes from strength to strength, largely managed by Kate Elms and Stephanie Shepherd, with many talks filled virtually to capacity. The programme is at the back of this Newsletter – make sure you book early.

Since 1 October 2017 FoTKA has provided grants towards 13 accessions. The most spectacular were undoubtedly the Beachy Head Lighthouse slides, about which Anna Manthorpe writes elsewhere in this Newsletter; other highlights include additional photographs of the Brighton postcard manufacturer Bill Wardell, a rent-roll of the West Brighton estate, 1878-1886, and papers relating to the establishment of a museum at Bodiam Castle in 1924, with several proposed exhibits from the early years of the 19th century onwards.

With FoTKA's assistance on 15 March we bought an important group of documents which has evidently escaped

from a solicitor's office in Battle. The five lots include turnpike accounts, Land Tax returns and commissioners' minutes, and manorial records for the Catsfield area dating from the middle of the 16th century. There will undoubtedly be more about them in the next Newsletter.

I should like to thank FoTKA, its committee and members for their continuing invaluable support for the work of The Keep.

**Casper Johnson and
Christopher Whittick**

Hon Membership Secretary

We are looking for a new Hon Membership Secretary to take over from Jan Boyes. He or she would be the first point of contact for any membership enquires, keeping a master list of our members, processing payments in liaison with our Treasurer and helping with mail-outs of our regular newsletter in liaison with our Secretary. Our membership currently stands at about 180. He or she would also be elected to sit on the Friends Committee.

Duties

- First point of contact for new and current membership enquiries via email and post
- Process application forms and payments, send out acknowledgements and add to membership list
- Keep FoTKA membership list up to date
- Send out annual subs reminders to those who pay by cheque, process responses and keep a record of payments
- Liaise with Treasurer and Secretary
- Print out labels for any mail-outs to members

If you feel you might be interested please contact Jan on membersfotka@gmail.com or 01323 870515 for a chat.

Visits Coordinator

Sheena Parker is relinquishing her role after some very active years, in which FoTKA members have enjoyed exceptionally interesting visits to relatively unknown houses and other historic buildings in the county. We are looking to replace her as soon as possible.

The Visits Coordinator (VC) is the trustee responsible for planning an annual programme of visits, usually three a year, to places of historic interest which are not normally open to the public. The VC is supported by two other trustees on the Visits committee. This is a practical role, involving liaising with the owners of proposed visit sites to agree possible dates and arranging expert speakers, such as the County Archivist. The VC will visit the sites to confirm details of the visits, advertise them on the website, process applications, accompany the group on the visit and report on the visit for the Newsletter.

The individual needs to be a car driver with access to a car, be familiar with internet, email, excel etc, be a well-organised self-starter and confident in working with a wide range of people. If you are interested in archives, history and architecture and more, this could be the role for you.

If you would like to be involved, but are not sure if you want the leading role, then we are always looking for new trustees with a particular interest in the built heritage of East Sussex to join the Visits committee.

Please contact
visitsfotka@btinternet.com;

or by letter to:

The Secretary,
Friends of The Keep Archives,
The Keep,
Woollards Way,
Falmer,
Brighton BN1 9BP.

Summer Visits Programme

We know that members look forward to our summer visits. We will be advertising this programme in a month or so on the website and by email. If you would like to receive the programme by post please write to the Visits Coordinator at The Keep. In the meantime, don't miss the joint visit to Shoreham Fort with our friends at West Sussex on 8 May.

WEST SUSSEX ARCHIVES SOCIETY
THE FRIENDS OF WEST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE

Tuesday 8 May 2pm
SHOREHAM FORT
PRIVATE GUIDED TOUR

Forthaven, Shoreham Beach BN43 5HY
adjacent Pay and Display council car park

An opportunity to have a private tour with the
very knowledgeable Gary Baines, chairman and
founder of the Friends of Shoreham Fort

Shoreham Fort, also known as Shoreham Redoubt
is a Palmerston Fort built in 1857
to defend against Napoleon III

£6 members £8 non-members

advance booking appreciated please

booking forms can be found on our website
and in *The Researcher* - or send us an email

This is a joint meeting with Friends of The Keep Archives

Enquiries email wsascom@btinternet.com
Find us on Facebook 'West Sussex Archives Society'
westsussexarchivessociety.webplus.net

Talks at The Keep – May to August 2018

Recording our Everyday Lives, an afternoon with the Mass Observation staff, Wednesday 9 May, 2.30-3.30pm, £5 (pay on the door)

Writing your Day with Mass Observation, Saturday 12 May, 10am-12 noon, free event, families welcome!

Meet the Conservators, a chance to find out what goes on in a conservation studio, Thursday 17 May, 2-4.30pm, £10/£9* including refreshments

The Beachy Head Lighthouse, and newly acquired images of its construction, Wednesday 23 May, 6-8pm, £10/£9** including a glass of wine

The Brighton of Aubrey Beardsley, an armchair tour of the artist's local haunts, Thursday 14 June, 5.30-6.30pm, £5 (pay on the door)

Humphry Repton and his designs for the Royal Pavilion, Thursday 21 June, 6-7.30pm, £10/£9** including a glass of wine

Almost Lost: The Heinemann Legacy, During and After the Holocaust, how one family found restitution and reconciliation, Tuesday 17 July, 5.30-6.30pm, £5 (pay on the door)

The West Pier's Early Years, illustrated talk and display of archive material, Thursday 26 July, 5.30-6.30pm, £5 (pay on the door)

Britain on Film: Coast and Sea, Saturday 11 August, 10-11.45am, £3 (pay on the door)

*special price for students **special price for members of FoTKA

Family History Workshops

First Steps in Family History, a workshop led by the Sussex Family History Group, 16 May, 2-4pm, £10 including refreshments

Beyond the Family Tree: Writing, Curating and Presenting your Family's Past, 6-week course led by author and life historian Shivaun Woolfson, Saturday 19 & 26 May, 2, 9, 16 & 30 June, 10am-12.30pm, £120 including tea or coffee

Unlocking the Parish Chest, an exploration of less well-known parish records, Thursday 12 July, 2-4pm, £10 including refreshments

Unless otherwise stated, advance booking and payment is essential.
For further information, please call 01273 482349 or visit The Keep website, www.thekeep.info/events.

