



# SussexLink



December 2003

A Newsletter for the Sussex Family History Group

Vol 1 No 6

## The SFHG needs you!

Yes, I know, I am off again on one of my old hobby horses! But before you switch off, please hear me out.

I have said on many occasions, both here and in the Chairman's Letter in the Sussex Family Historian, that the Sussex Family History Group is vitally dependent on the many volunteers that make it work. Volunteers who run meeting centres. Volunteers who run projects. Volunteers who transcribe and index documents. Volunteers who make the tea at meetings. Volunteers who take the responsibility for running the Group at the centre.

As most people know the Group is run by an Executive Committee, made up of the four Honorary Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and up to six other elected members. The members of the Executive are the trustees of the Group, and are responsible not only for making sure that, as far as possible, the Group meets the expectations of the members, but also that it runs effectively, efficiently and in accordance with the law. It is essential for the future of the Group that there is a steady throughput of volunteers willing to take on these roles and responsibilities. None of us wish to hold office forever and a day! We all know that this would not be good for the Group, let alone for ourselves and our families! One of our responsibilities therefore is to plan for our own succession.

At present we have only four elected members on the Executive, not the six that we should have, and I would very much like to see this put right at the AGM in March next year. We also have to plan for the retirement of Joan Goddard as Vice Chairman, at the AGM, and must therefore find a replacement for her, possibly somebody willing to take over from me as Chairman at some point in the future. And we

need to find volunteers to take over both the treasury role from David Steel and the secretary role from Margaret Bysh. Both David and Margaret stepped into the breach to fill gaps in our organisation on a limited short term basis, whilst we find the right people to take on these jobs.

There are of course other jobs still vacant outside of the Executive. We need people to spearhead our publicity, to run our conferences and to back up a number of key roles in the organisation as deputies. I also know that a number of meeting centres are also looking for volunteers to help in their own local organisation. And with John and Rosemary Lea moving to Lincolnshire shortly we need to find somebody to take over the coordination of the Baptism Index. I make no apology for going on about this again. It is vital to find the right people to take these jobs on. Otherwise there may not be a Sussex Family History Group!

If you can help in any way, please get in touch with me, [chairman@sfhg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sfhg.org.uk), or any member of the Executive or any of the Meeting Centre Chairmen.

*(The image at the beginning of this article was obtained from <http://www.wkac.ac.uk/poster/IMAGEBANK/Kitchener.htm>, and is understood to be no longer subject to copyright.)*

**Kitchener's poster —**

**Your country needs you**

*Image omitted to reduce file size  
for web version*

To all readers of SussexLink  
**A Happy Christmas**  
and  
a successful 2004 discovering  
more about our ancestors!

## **Meeting Centre Programmes 2004**

The monthly programmes for each of our Meeting Centres for the coming year is now posted on the website, with many different attractions around the county. A downloadable version (pdf) is also available.

## **Joint Computer Conference a great success**

The joint Computer Conference between the Society of Genealogists and ourselves at Worthing High School on Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> was a great success, despite last minute hitches with the practical arrangements at the school. The event was very well attended, the lectures and demonstrations very much appreciated and a group of family historians are now that little more confident in their use of modern technology.

Thanks are due both to Murray Hayes, who organised the event on behalf of the Group, and Eric Probert on behalf of the SoG.

## **Online Parish Clerks**

Want to know what Sussex is up to  
with Online Parish Clerks?

Check out the December edition of  
the Historian.

## **New Venue for Chichester Meeting Centre**

The Chichester Meeting Centre is proving so popular that they have outgrown their existing venue. From the New Year they will be meeting at St. George's Church Hall, Cleveland Road, Chichester. Still the same day - the last Wednesday in the month - still the same time - 7.30 p.m. And like all our Meeting Centres, still the same exciting programme.

**2004**

## **Annual Conference**

**Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Clair Hall, Haywards Heath.**

See the Sussex Family Historian for  
details and booking form.

## **John and Rosemary Lea**

John and Rosemary Lea are moving to Lincolnshire shortly and will be greatly missed here in Sussex, particularly at West Meads, where they have been members for many years. John was my immediate predecessor as Chairman of the Group, and Rosemary a very effective Publicity Officer. However both were perhaps best known for the help that they have given many budding family historians, both in the education courses that they have run and at the Reading Room at West Meads. John and Rosemary intend to maintain their links with Sussex and visit us from time to time.

## **SussexLink**

This is the sixth edition of SussexLink following the trial edition a year ago. I would welcome comments, feedback and contributions.

Copy for the next edition by January 24<sup>th</sup>  
please.