



SussexLink



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A Newsletter for the Sussex Family History Group

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Embellishing the Picture

SFHG Annual Conference

Saturday March 24th 2007 at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath

Part of the fascination of family history is not only knowing who our ancestors were, but knowing something about them and the sort of lives that they led. Next year our annual conference will tackle this from two different perspectives that are relevant to family history and help us to embellish the pictures that we recreate of our forebears.

The relationship of local history to genealogy is well recognised and this theme will be taken up both by Malcolm Pratt in his opening talk "*The Ancient Town of Winchelsea - its History and its Families*", and by a number of invited local history societies and similar organisations exhibiting their current activities.

As well as looking at families from a local history point of view we will also be able to take a more sociological and medical perspective. Our second lecturer will be Peter Razzell talking about "*Mortality and family history in England, 1538-1850*". In the afternoon the ever popular Timespan team, Tony and Lizzie Gilks, will entertain us with their irreverent medical presentation "*Sawbones, Quacks or Inventive Surgeons*".

As I have made clear it is my intention that this will be my last conference as Chairman, and I hope that it will be as appealing and as memorable as our other recent conferences. A booking form for the conference will be in December's *Sussex Family Historian*.

The Group Library at Lewes

Manning the Group Library is reaching a crisis point. "Manning" may not be politically correct these days, but in this situation it is entirely appropriate. The library urgently needs volunteers able to set up and put away the equipment at the beginning and end of each session, a task usually undertaken by the men amongst our volunteers.

Recent illness and advancing age has reduced the number of male volunteers significantly, putting the regular opening of the library at risk. Although there is a review of the library being undertaken at the present time it is important that the current service is maintained as a basis from which to develop a better service for the future.

Family Records Centre

Further to the report in the last issue of *SussexLink* about the proposed move of the National Archive component of the Family Record Centre from Myddelton Street to Kew in 2008 it seems unlikely that the objections raised by the family history community will have any effect on the decision.

This was the inference drawn from the contribution made by James Strachan, TNA's Director of Public Services & Marketing at the meeting organised by the Federation of Family History Societies at the Northampton conference. Hopefully the TNA will continue to make the film and fiche copies of the censuses available at Kew.



History Matters - Pass it on

How important is history to you? Almost certainly it is, otherwise you wouldn't be researching your family history and reading this newsletter. Of course we probably don't all mean the same thing by

history, but we all believe that it is important. Why?

The "History matters - Pass it on" campaign believes that a society out of touch with its past cannot have confidence in its future. History helps us to know where we come from and to explain the world as it is. Each of our personal histories is part of Britain's story.

A better understanding of our shared history helps us to solve the problems we face as a nation, to come to terms with our history both as a nation and as a world community, and where necessary be reconciled with it.

The organisers of the campaign are seeking support for the History Matters Declaration:

"We believe that history matters. A society out of touch with its past cannot have confidence in its future. History defines, educates and inspires us. It lives on in our historic environment. As custodians of our past, we will be judged by generations to come. We must value it, nurture it and pass it on."

For more information, and possibly to sign up yourself, visit www.historymatters.org.uk

ESRO News

East Sussex Record Office has recently acquired the master copy of the Lambert Portfolio drawings of Hurstmonceux Castle made by the James Lamberts of Lewes in 1776. The purchase was made possible by a grant and significant fund raising by the Friends of East Sussex Record Office.

ESRO is also about to launch the next stage of working up the proposal to build a new record office for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. This development is still a little way off, but in order to be able to bid for the substantial grants that will be required to create the imaginative proposals that are being developed it is necessary to carry out much preparatory work, including an audience development plan which is now under way.

Happy Birthday

Many congratulations to Frank Leeson, a founder member of SFHG and one of our vice presidents who initiated and developed the Sussex Marriage Index, who celebrates his 80th birthday this month.

Internet News

Family History Online

(www.familyhistoryonline.net) have begun to add downloadable images to the site (although none yet from Sussex).

The Society of Genealogists

has made its surname index available on the web (www.sog.org.uk).

Sussex Record Society

(www.sussexrecordsociety.org) has made the Buckhurst Terrier (Volume 39, 1933) available on its site. The text is fully indexed by name and place, and can also be found from the West Sussex Record Office site (from the Poor Law Database link).

GenDocs

Although the October issue of Ancestors reports that this useful site including a Victorian London Street Index, has disappeared, it is in fact still to be found at <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/hitch/gendocs/>.

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(The @ in email addresses has been replaced with " at ".)