

Local History in Sussex: activities of societies in 2010-2011

This is a list originally created by Ann Best, based on the original listing by David Brown. David Brown's list of Sussex local history groups may be consulted at: www.localhistorylink.com Both are members of the Sussex Archaeological Society and kindly agreed to work with Brian Short (Chair, SAS Research Committee) to promote local societies who are **(i) holding regular meetings and/or (ii) undertaking research on their localities and/or (iii) undertaking any other related functions.**

The Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) has members across East and West Sussex and carries out research or offers information on many localities throughout the two counties. Local history is promoted by SAS by the holding of one-day and half-day conferences; by occasional lecture and field class days, often with national societies; and by the availability of the Barbican, housing the best library of literature and visual collections on the history of Sussex to be found anywhere in the UK. The Research Committee of SAS believes that a directory of local history groups/societies would be a good first reference point for researchers, as these groups may have already done similar research in their localities. Many members of these groups hold valuable archives.

The society wants to promote awareness of local history groups as many of our members might like to join a local history group as well as being a member of the SAS. Likewise members of local groups might like to join the SAS, which gives free entry to many historic properties across the county and holds meetings, lectures and walks all relating to Sussex. Every year members also receive a copy of *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, one of the oldest and most esteemed county publications of archaeological and historical projects throughout the UK.

Information on local groups from libraries or the local authority is **very** patchy.

Gathering all the information was really informative and we were surprised that there were so many groups in the two counties - nearly 90. This excludes Family History/Genealogy groups at present, although we believe that there is a considerable overlap in interest in many cases. It also excludes, for the moment, the Friends groups related to SAS properties. Although some of the information is already, or might soon be out of date, membership secretaries are frequently noted for the societies. We hope that this guide will help those eager to find an active local archaeology/history group, and will offer new ideas to existing groups.

An A-Z listing of all those societies that could be traced follows. We would be pleased to hear of other societies which have been inadvertently omitted.

Alfriston and Cuckmere Valley Historical Society

History of dwellings and people in the Cuckmere valley. The Society will research the history of buildings and people of the Cuckmere Valley We hold 3-4 meeting per year at the War Memorial Hall, Alfriston. Subscription £6 per annum or £10 per couple.

Contact Details: R.A. Levett, Tel No 01323 870819;
Email ronlevett@ronlevett.plus.com

Ardingly History Society

Hon. Secretary: Mrs J.B. Broughton, 26 Ardings Close, Ardingly, West Sussex RH17 6AN. Tel. No. 01444 892041, email: joy@bbroughton.fsnt.co.uk

The society holds regular talks throughout the year. The following footnote is at the end of the programme: "On most Tuesday mornings the Chairman and Archivist will be in attendance in Hapstead Small Hall between 10am and 11am, when members will be able to access the archives for reference purposes".

Chairman: Mr R. Tester, Tel.No. 01444 892425, email: roy_tester@tiscali.co.uk
Archivist: Mr C.H. Izard, Tel. No.01444 892350, email: clive.ardingly@hotmail.co.uk

Arundel Museum Society

See the Arundel Museum website; www.arundelmuseum.org.uk

Come And Meet Us At Our Regular Volunteers' Meetings

All members and prospective members of the Arundel Museum Society are invited to join our group of volunteers who meet regularly for working sessions over coffee or tea in Arundel. So if you are interested to find out how you might get more involved with the Society, please feel free to join us at any of these meetings:

- 10.00am every Wednesday morning upstairs in Grounds Coffee Bar in the High Street in Arundel.
- 10.00am on every other Farmers' Market Saturday (January, March, May, July, September and November) in the Swan Hotel at the bottom of the High Street in Arundel.

The society also holds events, some fund raising, but some related to the history of Arundel for example:

Saturday 12 March, Town Quay

Party on the Pier

This event is organised by the Arundel Community Partnership. The theme of the event will be the relationship between the river and the town. Arundel Museum Society will host a display about Arundel as a port. Other attractions will include:

Thursday 14 April, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, Arundel Town Hall

House History – Dr Ian Friel

Dr. Ian Friel (www.ianfriel.co.uk), formerly Curatorial Advisor to Arundel Museum and Director of Littlehampton and Chichester Museums, will present us with a talk on what can be learnt by studying the history of individual houses and the people who lived in them. This is history at the micro level, but it has much to tell us about the wider picture. Come and find out about the hidden wall, the 17th century money lender and his *drinksrooms* in the South Downs, who took in washing in Chichester around 1900, and the chequered history of a Littlehampton restaurant.

The society organises “Accompanied Town Walks” in the summer and under “Educational Activities” will welcome Adult Group Visits

We can provide a range of custom planned educational and leisure activities for groups of adults:

- Guided Town Walks
- Lectures
- Study Days

Contact Us

Postal Address

Arundel Museum Society, The Town Hall, Maltravers Street, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9AP

Please note that this is address to which post for the Museum should be addressed, and not the location of the History Store.

Telephone Number 01903 882456

Email Address info@arundelmuseum.org.uk

Ashurst Wood Historians

Research and record the history of Ashurst Wood. Established in 1979. We meet every month on the 2nd Tuesday, September to June 7.30-9pm in St Dunstan's Church Hall. Annual subscription £10 individual, £14 family (reduced for part year). Speakers on history of local area and the southeast, working evenings, we have published 4 books, a Parish Map and had 10 exhibitions of village history, plus an annual outing and Christmas celebration.

St Dunstan's Church Hall, Ashurst Wood, West Sussex, RH19 3QT

Contact Details:

Keith Stacey, Chairman - Garden House, Ivy Dene Lane, Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead
West Sussex RH19 3TN
Tel No. 01342 323880

Battle and District Historical Society

Promoting awareness of local history in Battle and the surrounding area. The B.D.H.S. was founded in 1950. Programme of lectures monthly. Programme of visits April - September. Publications: The 1066 Malfosse Walk, Battle Town Walk. Lectures are held in the Church Hall, Upper Lake. (Charge to non-members). Produces an annual newsletter and journal.

16 Upper Lake, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0AN
Tel 01424 775590 Charity Number: 292593

Beauport Park Archaeological Trust

Aims to conserve and if possible put on public display the Roman ironworks site in Beauport Park. This information is derived from a link under "local societies" on the *Current Archaeology* website. There is no information on current or recent activities.

Beeding and Bramber Local History Society

See www.steyningmuseum.org.uk where the following information is available.

The Beeding and Bramber Local History Society was formed in 1981 for people who have an interest in the past of the two villages, as well as Botolphs, Small Dole and Edburton. From small beginnings, the society now has over 90 members and meets regularly in the Beeding & Bramber Village Hall.

Talks are held from October to May, on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm. They cover subjects ranging from the local area and the County of Sussex to general topics of historic interest. Visitors are welcome at these talks, with just a £2 entrance fee for non-members.

During the summer, excursions are arranged to places of local interest. Wherever possible, the Society uses members of local history societies as guides.

Four local images from the beautifully illustrated Parish Millennium Map are shown on the web page. It was produced by the Society and spans 1500 years of history. It is on view at the Beeding & Bramber Village Hall and copies of the map can be purchased in local shops for £3. The Society has also published two books (histories of Beeding and Bramber) written by members.

Local Archive Collection

The Society has a large amount of material relating to the local area, including photographs, maps and other documents. This material is stored privately and may be viewed by appointment. Further details are available from the secretary at history.beeding@mypostoffice.co.uk

Contact name and address from the membership application form:

Mrs Dawn Burrage, Beeding and Bramber Local History Society, 53 Newland Road, Upper Beeding, W.Sussex BN44 3JJ

2011 Meetings

This list of meetings is taken from the West Sussex County Council/Upper Beeding web site. There is a direct link to this web site from the Beeding and Bramber Local History Society page.

Wednesday 5 January - Sussex Piers: Disappointed bridges or palaces of delight? Dr Sally White **Wednesday 2 February** - Shops and Shopping, the history of the small shop through the ages. Dr Janet Pennington **Wednesday 3 March A.G.M.** - Detective work at Steyning Museum. Chris Tod **Wednesday 6 April** - The Civil War in Sussex. Chris Hare **Wednesday 4 May** - West Sussex Settlements Lost to the Sea. John Mills **Wednesday 7 September** - The History of the Tram. Ian Gledhill **Wednesday 5 October** - Lewes and Bonfire Night. Andy Thomas **Wednesday 2 November** - Sussex and the Napoleonic Wars. Helen Poole

Bexhill Hanoverian Study Group

To foster an interest in the history of Bexhill and its effect on the National and International Military Affairs and Connections. Meetings, with talks, every third Tuesday of the month 7.30pm at Manor Barn, Bexhill Old Town.

Also Seminars and visits to sites of relevant interest. The group has accumulated much King's German Legion material. Research is on-going and information is shared with interested parties both here and in Germany.

Contact Details

Rona Hemmingway , Newsletter Editor, Librarian, Archivist Tel:01424 842785
ronahemmingway@yahoo.co.uk

Billingshurst Local History Society

Billingshurst Local History Society holds 7 evening meetings between October and April each year and 3 summer outings. They undertake occasional research projects eg taking photographic record of all the properties in the parish etc.

Contact details: Chairman-Duncan Reynolds, Pintail, 1 Gillmans Cottages
Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, W. Sussex

Blackboys and District Historical Society

A friendly group of people living in the area interested in local, family and general history of Blackboys, Framfield, Palehouse Common and environs. We hold monthly evening meetings, with a guest speaker, usually on the first Tuesday in Blackboys Village Hall, Blackboys. We also arrange occasional walks, special events, and visits out with a 'historical' theme, as well as social events. Visitors and new members are welcome, anyone who is interested in the past of our local area.

Contact details

Mrs A. Turner, Secretary 18 Maple Leaf Cottages, School Lane, Blackboys, Uckfield
East Sussex TN22 5LJ
Tel: 01825 890359; Email: bturner.18maple@btinternet.com

Bognor Regis Local History Society

Bognor Regis Local History Society,
Kay Fall, kayfall@beachfalls.co.uk tel: 01243 268695
Monthly meetings with speakers

We also run Bognor Regis Museum
Second Monday of month September to June 7.30pm The Hub Community Centre,
Queensway, Bognor Regis.

Bognor Regis Local History Museum www.culture24.org.uk/am9517

Bognor Regis Local History Society was formed in 1979 to promote research into, and recording of, the town's history. In 1984 the Society founded a museum which was, and still is, run by volunteers and supported by the local Councils. It offers free entry to the visitor, who can not only learn about Bognor's beginnings and over two centuries of the town's development, but also social history, in the form of mock shop window displays covering many subjects.

Contact details

69 High Street, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1RY. Tel no: 01243 865636

Bolney Local History Society

Bolney Local History Society exists to tell the story of Bolney and its people. We also

consider the rest of Sussex as our territory, especially when its history relates to that of Bolney. Main events are talks and outings to local places of historical interest. Recently, one of our members has produced a history of Bolney which is still available and we also produced the Golden Jubilee Parish map of Bolney.

We meet: Six times a year

We meet at the Rawson Institute

How many members: 30 approx.

Annual Membership fees: £5 per person, £8 per married couple, Under 18 free

Visitors Fee: £3

Who to contact: D Kennard ~ Secretary

Contact phone number: 01444 881440

Web - site / contact Bolneyhistory.co.uk

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Has regular talks, which are advertised in the "Noticeboard", SAS Newsletter *Past and Present*. The activities of BHAS are frequently reported in *Past and Present*.

The BHAS has a website www.brightonarch.org.uk which gives information about the society; about past and present local archaeological work and details of their "Lecture and Local History programme".

Main Lecture programme

2011

14th January	Prehistoric and Roman Brighton & Hove	David Rudling (postponed from last January)
11th February	Intertidal archaeology of the Thames	Dr Fiona Haughey (Director Archaeology on the Thames Project)
11th March	King Arthur - the Truth at Last	Dr Miles Russell
8th April	The Iron Industry in the Weald	Jeremy Hodgkinson

Local History Forum 2011

29th January **Fishing Town and Country Parishes - Brighton and the rural City parishes 1500-1700** Sue Berry

26th February **Newhaven - 1800 to the present day** Carol White

19th March **Constable in Sussex** Cherry Gillingham

For those without a computer information about membership and the society can be

obtained from:

The Membership Secretary

Mrs Fran Briscoe, 60 Princes Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 3RH

Tel. 01273 670413

Brighton Street-Talk

- **Community publishing, poetry and projects for Brighton**
- Publishers of the Brighton Street-Talk Walk and Everybody's Poetry: Voices from Inner Brighton, we seek to collect voices and images from around the city through our group of volunteers. If you're interested in finding out more or would like an update on our activities contact: streettalkwalk@hotmail.com

Burgess Hill Local History Society

Society's website: www.burgesshillmuseum.co.uk

Meetings are held once a month in [Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road](#), usually the evening of the second Friday of the month. The programme of activities includes talks, slide shows and visits to nearby towns and villages of interest.

All members receive a quarterly newsletter, which contains news of members' activities, and items on local history.

Some members are currently engaged in research on a variety of topics including families, farms, churches and houses.

In memory of Hugh Matthews, a past president of the society and the author of *Burgess Hill* (1989), a small bursary is available annually for members to defray some expenses incurred in such research.

2011 Programme			
DATE	NAME	SPEAKER	MORE DETAILS
14th January	The Archaeology Of War	Luke Barber	Luke Barber will talk about the advances in archaeological research which are extending our knowledge of warfare.
11th February	Votes For Men —The Local Electorate In The 1830s	Bob Ford	Our own Bob Ford will tell us about the voters, general elections, and 19th Century parliamentary reforms in Sussex.
11th March	Mid Sussex Suffragists	Frances Stenlake	Frances Stenlake will talk about Edith Bevan, the younger sister of the artist Robert, who founded the Cuckfield

Women's Suffrage Society
in 1909.

8rd April	An Illustrated Walk Around Old Steyning	Janet Pennington	Janet Pennington's talk describes the wealth of the town's buildings and its history.
13th May	"Scattered Squalor" and "Downland Homes"	Geoff Mead	Geoff Mead talks about interwar housing development in Mid Sussex and the south east.
8th-11th June	Festival Week Exhibition		
8th July	Summer Social PLEASE NOTE:- this evening starts early at 7pm		Join in a treasure hunt around Burgess Hill, or stay inside for a picture quiz followed by tea/coffee and cakes.
12th August	No Meeting		
20st August	Outing To Steyning		Visit the Museum in the morning and walk around the old town in the afternoon. An event for members only. Details will be announced later and lifts will be offered if possible.
9th September	History Of Smuggling In Sussex And Kent	Geoff Hutchinson	Watch the wall, my darling, while the gentlemen go by. Geoff Hutchinson will give his lively insight into the phenomenon of smuggling – from days gone by to present times.
14th October	Annual General Meeting	Fred Avery	After the main business of the evening Fred Avery will show a selection of slides from the Society's archives
11th November	Life Around Burgess Hill In The Early 1300s	Heather Warne	Our President, Heather Warne, will give us an insight into the annual round of work, pleasure and public duty of a typical farming family

9th Decemb er *	Christmas Social Evening *	*	*
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* Members Only

The society also supports Burgess Hill Museum (Heritage Centre) details of which are on the website.

Contact details other than through the website:

The Burgess Hill Local History Society

25 Ockley Way, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8NE

Catsfield History Group

There does not appear to be a Catsfield History Group but the Parish Action Plan is outlined at: www.catsfieldpc.co.uk and there is a section “A brief history of Catsfield” attributed to the History Group, but no details of such a group could be traced on Catsfield websites.

Chichester Local History Society

See www.westsussex.gov.uk – W. Sussex Library Service Local Societies and Organisations.

Contact Details

Andrew Berriman
38 Ferndale Road, CHICHESTER, W Sussex PO19 6QJ

**Phone
(Daytime):** 01243 528845

**Phone
(Evening):** 01243 528845

E-Mail: andrew.berriman@gmail.com

Website: www.chichesterlocalhistory.org.uk

Day/Time Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm September to June

Venue: New Park Centre (Film Hall), New Park Road, Chichester, West Sussex

[Click for Map](#)

Access: DISABLED ACCESS

Please see website for more information.

The Chichester Local History Society was formed in the mid 80s and is now a thriving group with over 150 members. The Society seeks to promote talks, research, and publications on local historical topics and to arrange visits to places of historical interest in the Chichester area. Our well attended evening meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the New Park Centre when we welcome speakers on a wide range of subjects concerning the City, its surroundings, its buildings, and the people who lived and worked here. If you would like to know more about Chichester's history, or share your knowledge with others, why not come along to one of our meetings? [Click here](#) to see our meeting times.

The Society's annual programme consists of nine talks, and an AGM with buffet supper and entertaining speaker, between the months of September and June plus a coach trip to a place of historical interest and a guided walk in the Chichester area. A Society Journal which contains a series of articles of local historical interest contributed by members and other authors is published each year and is free to members while the Society is currently piloting the publication of Papers on single historical topics. Archive copies of all the Journals published since 1985 are available for loan to members.

PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 2010-JULY 2011

8 September 2010 *Early radar in Sussex.* Brian Worsfold, society member (and Secretary!)

13 October 2010 *“Somewhat ineffectual” – A re-evaluation of the life of Charles Dorrien of Lavant House, Sennicotts and Adsdean.* Terry Carlyle, historian and society member

10 November 2010 *Sussex – the seaside playground of the Georgian and Regency rich.* Dr Sue Berry, historian, author and Visiting Fellow at University of Chichester.

8 December 2010 AGM & Party (members only) *Tales of Old Sussex.* Martin Muncaster, radio and television broadcaster.

12 January 2011 *Tudor Royal Progress in West Sussex.* Caroline Adams, Senior Archivist, West Sussex Record Office.

9 February 2011 *1295, the Year of the Galleys – working life of the English Coast 700 years ago.* Dr Ian Friel, maritime historian and author.

9 March 2011 *House of Treason – the Tudor Dukes of Norfolk* Robert Hutchinson, historian and author.

13 April 2011 Members' Evening. Three short talks, all by society members. Subjects to be announced.

11 May 2011 *Chichester – City of Art.* Alan Green, local historian, author and society member.

8 June 2011 *The Dramatic History of Warblington Castle.* Phil Adams, local historian.

12 June 2011 (Sunday) Summer day outing (details to be announced)

20 July 2011 (Wednesday) Summer event. Evening visit to the South Downs Planetarium. Joining details nearer the time

- *All meetings take place at the New Park Centre, New Park Road Chichester, PO19 7XY.*
- *Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start*
- *Non-members welcome at £2 except for December Meeting*

Chichester and District Archaeology Society

See the CDAS website at www.cdas.info

From September to May we offer a programme of lectures in the cinema of the New Park Centre, New Park Road, Chichester on the fourth Wednesday of the month, given by leading archaeologists, authors and academics. These lectures are regularly advertised in the SAS newsletter *Past and Present*.

2011 Lectures

26th January - 'A Walk on the Wild Side: new animals and new landscapes in Iron Age & Roman Britain' by Martyn Allen (Nottingham University)

23rd February - 'Wooden Ships and Iron Men : Excavations at Haslar' by Dr Sophie Beckett (Research Fellow, Cranfield Forensic Institute)

23rd March - 'Archaeology & Landscape Characterisation' by David Hopkins (Principal Archaeologist, Hampshire)

27th April - 'An Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Kingship' by Barbara Yorke (Winchester University)

25th May - Members evening.

The Society celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2011. Its aims are to increase public awareness of and support for archaeology and to encourage volunteer assistance to local activities. The Society is affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology and works closely with Sussex Archaeological Society, the District Archaeology Officer, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, English Heritage, Chichester District Museum and Fishbourne Roman Palace.

The website gives details of past and on-going local research and excavations.

Chichester Museum Society

See the page at www.westsussex.gov.uk

[HomeWest Sussex Library Service Local Societies and Organisations](#)

Contact Details

Name: Miss Rosemary Gilmour (Curator, Social History)
Address: Chichester Museum Society
 c/o Chichester District Museum, 29 Little London
 Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1PB

Phone (Daytime): 01243 784683
Phone (Evening): 01243 773158
E-Mail: rgilmour@chichester.gov.uk
Day/Time: Second Tuesday of the month 7.30pm Lecture programme
Venue: Friends Meeting House, Priory Road, Chichester, West Sussex
 and St Johns Church, St Johns Street, Chichester, West Sussex
[Click for Map](#)

Access: DISABLED ACCESS
Notes: Visitors welcome. Contact the museum for up to date information on the meeting venue and society activities. We hope to move back to East Pallant House in January 2010. Members steward the Guildhall (branch museum) in Priory Park on summer Saturdays. September "at home" in museum.

The following information is at www.chichester.gov.uk

Chichester Museum Society

The Chichester Museum Society aims to promote interest in the history of the area through the District Museum and its collections. The Society also assists in the acquisition of suitable material for the collection when available.

As a member of the society, you can take part in a varied programme of lectures held from October to April in the Committee Rooms at East Pallant House.

During the Spring and Summer months, visits are arranged to local sites of historic interest.

To join the Museum Society, download and complete the application form.

Volunteering

The Museum Society provides volunteer staff cover for Chichester's Guildhall which is open to the public throughout the Summer months. On Saturday afternoons in the Summer, members of the Society serve as Stewards in Chichester's Guildhall. This is worked on a rota system. If you would be interested in volunteering as a steward please come along to one of our meetings. Some Society members also choose to volunteer at

the District Museum assisting with collections packing and processing, research and events. If you are interested in volunteering at the Museum, please contact the Museum Learning & Development Officer.

Programme of Events

Lectures are held in the Committee Rooms at East Pallant House starting at 7.30pm. Ample free parking is available in East Pallant car park.

Tuesday 14th December

AGM and Social Evening: AGM followed by a talk, raffle and social drinks.

Tuesday 11th January

The Long Gallery at Parham

Joe Thompson, Carpenter in residence at Parham House, gives an insight into the magic of this outstanding example of Medieval architecture.

Tuesday 8th February

Conserving Roman Mosaics

Carol Edwards talks on the craft and artistry required to produce these wonders of classical work and the work involved in their conservation.

Tuesday 8th March

The Midhurst Line

Bill Gage takes us on a journey in time to when local railways dominated local transport.

Tuesday 12th April

The First Vaccinations

Patrick Pead, researcher and author, reveals the little known history of Benjamin Jesty, a Dorset Farmer.

May to August 2011

Local visits to historic sites - details available from 2011.

Chichester Ship Canal Trust

See www.chichestercanal.org.uk

A small but important remnant of the old inland route from London to Portsmouth is being restored as a leisure waterway linking historic Chichester to the sea.

If you're a Trust member, you can access the website pages for members and volunteers: please contact access@chichestercanal.com and we will forward you instructions. This would presumably be a good resource for those interested in the history of the canal--- there is some information on the website.

Contact details for those without a computer:

The Membership Secretary

Mrs Linda Wilkinson, 1 Chidham Lane, Chidham, Chichester PO18 8TL

Email: membership@chichestercanal.com

Cowfold Village History Society

The Cowfold Parish website: www.cowfold-pc.gov.uk contains the following notice:

Our next event will be held on Friday 15 APRIL in the Village Hall starting with the AGM at 7.30 pm, followed by a talk by George Cockman at 8 pm about "The Steyning Line, including West Grinstead".

"Church Marks" and St Peter's Churchyard: John Chamberlin promises a fascinating 'question and answer' session about important aspects of Cowfold's history. Note the date now! Friday 8 JULY - meet in the church at 7.30 pm.

Members free and non-members £3 including refreshment. Young people welcome. Are you interested in joining the CVHS and taking part in our projects? If so, contact: sucrofts@aol.com or 01403 864602

Crawley Museum Society

The link to the society's website is www.crawleymuseum.moonfruit.com

The society manages two museums for the town of Crawley: Crawley Museum Centre in Goffs Park and The Watermill (off Hyde Drive in Ifield.)

Goffs House, Horsham Road, Crawley, W. Sussex RH11 8PE Tel: 01293 539088, email office@crawleymuseum.fsnet.co.uk

The Museum Society is based at Goffs House in Goffs Park, and also looks after Ifield Mill. The museum in Goffs House is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 2 - 4pm, mid-January until mid-December. Admission is free.

Permanent exhibits include Stone Age (Neolithic), Iron Age, Bronze Age and Roman items. There are also exhibitions on local churches, Crawley's last shoemaker and a Victorian kitchen. There are temporary exhibits which change every 6 months. The Society always welcomes new members.

Booklets available from Crawley Museum Society

Title	Publisher
Development of Crawley	John Goepel
How I chose Crawley Names	John Goepel
Early Houses in Crawley High Street	High St Conservation & Crawley Mus. Society
49 High Street, Crawley	Nadine Hygate
The Jordans	Nadine Hygate
Ye Olde Punch Bowle	Nadine Hygate/Annabella Hughes
Ifield Water Mill - 4 booklets	Crawley Museum Society

Inholmes the Forge Balcome Rd, Worth Nadine Hygate

Evening Lectures-St John's Hall

Feb 22 "The Roger Bastable Collection and Crawley Digital Heritage" by Tim Stanton from Crawley library

Mar 29 "Wealden Watermeadows" by Margaret Pilkington

Apr 26 "CBC Conservation Areas" by Ed Lancaster-CBC Planning Officer

Walks and other events are held in the summer.

A page about the society at www.crawley.gov.uk says the society welcomes new members. Presumably if you want to become a member you could contact the museum address at Goffs Park House.

The Cuckfield Society

The link is www.cuckfield.org This is not strictly a history society. From the website:

"The Cuckfield Society is a charity which was formed in 1963 with the intention of helping to preserve and enhance the essential atmosphere of the very special parish of Cuckfield and the surrounding countryside. We also seek to improve, in every way possible, the appearance of the village and our amenities."

A page from the AGM states:

Heritage

The Society reviews all planning applications which fall within its geographic area of responsibility and our main objective is best described as: "the conservation of Cuckfield's built heritage, its fabric and its setting - to facilitate, inform and support local groups"

Cuckfield has a museum, which is run entirely by volunteers and recently achieved Full Accreditation status. See: Cuckfieldmuseum@btconnect.com

Society Membership Secretary: Mr Dennis Burstow, Lower Shades, South Street, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5LB

Danehill Parish Historical Society

Local history society

Meetings are held at 8pm in the Danehill Memorial Hall on the last Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise stated. Visitors are welcome unless specifically for Members only. There is a small fee for Visitors at open meetings. The programme is subject to alteration or modification.

Feb 22. The Sheffield Documents, Speaker Christopher Whittick

March 29. Wealden Wanders, Gardens of Sussex, Speaker Christopher Rudd

April 26. Sussex Ironworkings, Speaker Jeremy Hodgkinson

Sept 27. AGM and a talk, To be announced

Oct 25. Gibert and Sullivan, Speaker Ian Gledhill

Nov 29. Recent archaeological discoveries in Lewes, Speaker Simon Stevens.

Ramp access.

Contact Details

Mrs J Rolfe, Hon Secretary, Sun House, Streeters Rough, Chelwood Gate, East Sussex RH17 7LL

East Brighton Bygones Local History Group

East Brighton Local History

The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Valley Social Centre in Whitehawk Way. Valley Social Centre, Whitehawk Road, Brighton, East Sussex 01273 608807

Contact Details

Bob Cristofoli, Chairman

Flat 4, 26 Grand Parade, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 9QB Tel no. 01273 707332

East Grinstead Society

See www.egnet.co.uk

The Society was founded in 1968 after one of the town's medieval houses had been demolished and redeveloped. It is now an amenity society registered with the Civic Trust as a charity and managed by a committee elected annually.

It publishes a programme of monthly meetings with guest speakers plus visits to places of interest. It organises guided walks and the town's contribution to National Heritage open days.

It publishes the Bulletin, and academic journal, twice per annum on matters of local interest; a Newsletter of current local interest three times per annum; Illustrated Town Trails covering (1) the historic old town and (2) the 19th and 20th century developments. The Society provides a professional team to inspect and comment on local planning applications submitted to the Town Council.

For further information:

Contact: Dr C.J.V. Wheatley **Tel:** 01342 321525

Eastbourne Local History Society

See www.eastbournehistory.org.uk

The Eastbourne Local History Society was founded in 1970. It is a charitable, not-for-profit organization whose objective is the pursuit and encouragement of an active interest in the study of the history of Eastbourne and its immediate environs and the dissemination of the outcome of such studies by the means of talks, publications, conducted walks and visits to places of local interest. The Society has a wealth of local historical images.

The society has about 270 members whose subscriptions provide the funds necessary to support the activities. Some twelve meetings are held each year at St Saviours and St Peters Church Hall, South Street, Eastbourne. Each Meeting is addressed by a speaker with local historical knowledge. A journal, the *Eastbourne Local Historian*, is published quarterly to provide a vehicle in which members' research findings are published.

It also provides a programme of forthcoming meetings and activities, news, notes, and enquiries.

The Society is administered by voluntary officers and committee members, whose positions are subject to annual election. Policy decisions are taken on General Committee and executed by three sub-committees: Activities, Research and Publications.

For further information about membership, please write to :

The Membership Secretary, 11 Ringwood Court, Seaside, Eastbourne, East Sussex
BN22 7RB Email: info@eastbournehistory.org.uk

Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society

Formed to investigate, preserve and record for public educational purposes the archeology, flora and fauna of Eastbourne and neighbourhood.

Meet 2nd Friday of the month from September to April, 7.30 pm at the WRVS Centre, Hyde Road, Eastbourne. Summer activities also arranged i.e. field walking and excavations.

Charity Number: 264190

Contact Details

Robin Reffell, Hon. Secretary

01323 648226

Robin Cottage, Secretary (from 1st August 2010)

01323 648226

See Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Eastbourne-Natural-History-and-Archaeological-Society/187380661302308>

Felbridge and District History Group

Contact details

Felbridge & District History Group

Stephonie Clarke, Oaklands, Lake View Road, Furnace Wood, Felbridge

RH19 2QE, Tel: 01342 715830; email jerry@felbridge.org.uk

www.felbridge.org.uk

The group was founded in 1998 to exchange history and information, and make a permanent record of Felbridge and the surrounding district. The area has a long history that changed little until the first decades of the 20th century.

The group meets every two months at 2.30 on a Sunday afternoon. This takes the format of talks with accompanying handouts. Local visits are organised along with guest speakers.

The alternate month a newsletter is circulated outlining the next meeting, dates of any events that may be occurring and any general information that has cropped up since the last meeting.

The aim of the group is to create an archive with the ambition of producing an informative and comprehensive history of the area in book format with photographs and illustrations, and stage occasional exhibitions.

The subscription cost is £10, which covers production of the newsletter, postage, handouts and refreshments at the meetings. Any excess will be used for a social event at the end of the year.

Diary of Events and Information

27th March 2011 Meeting including a talk on the Eating and Drinking Establishments of Felbridge part 5. (!!)

22nd May 2011 Meeting including a talk on Poultry Farming in Felbridge

18th June 2011 Felbridge Village Fair

17th July 2011 Meeting including a talk on the history of Furnace Wood

13th August 2011 Summer Social

25th September 2011 Meeting including a talk on the Felbridge Horticultural Society

27th November 2011 Meeting including a talk on Hedgecourt Manor and Farm

9th December 2011 Christmas Social in the style of the 14th century.

29th January 2012 Meeting

The group has also undertaken field walking in the Felbridge area and there are full reports under the drop down menu “Archaeology” at the top of the web page.

Under “Publications” there is a list of publications covering very many aspects of the

history of Felbridge.

Felpham and Middleton Local History Workshop

See www.fmlhw.org.uk

Who are we?

We are a small group of local residents with a common fascination for the history of our two villages situated on England's South coast between Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. Most of our members are engaged in their own research activity into aspects of our local history. Over the years we have produced a number of publications. Most of these are currently out of print but can be obtained at our local Libraries. A list of these and others currently in print can be seen on the publications page.

A contact is: Jeff Staniforth jeffstaniforth@phonecoop.coop

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (except August) in a very small room at the Felpham Memorial Community Centre. The group is organised as a workshop so we do not normally have outside speakers. It was initially established as a WEA class many years ago but is now an independent group with charitable status. We have published a number of books about our area and encourage all members to contribute to them by research and by workshop activities at our meetings. Visitors by arrangement are welcome especially from people who either have or want to gain research skills and to use them in cooperation with others. Members are normally drawn from those who live or work in the area of the two villages.

Anyone interested should contact us via the website. We do not currently have a system for non computer users to contact us.

Fernhurst Society

See www.fernhurstsociety.org.uk

Contact details enquiries@fernhurstsociety.org.uk

The Fernhurst Society was formed in 1998 and has 250 members. It is a registered UK charity (no. 1074564)

The Fernhurst Society's aims

- To enrich the enjoyment of [Fernhurst village](#) and its surrounding countryside in West Sussex
- To promote interest in local history, local life, traditions and customs
- To advance and disseminate knowledge of the archaeology, geography, natural history, buildings and architecture of the local district
- To seek the protection and improvement of the amenities and appearance of Fernhurst village and its environs

- The Society organises a programme of evening and afternoon talks and discussion meetings on matters of local interest, which are held in the village hall, except where shown. Audio recordings of talks are preserved in the Fernhurst Archives.

Under the link to “village local history” on the home page there are links to the following, where there is much information about the society’s research and activities re Fernhurst’s history.

- [The village of Fernhurst to the year 2000 AD](#)
- [Fernhurst Archives](#)
- [Fernhurst boundary walks](#)
- [Oral History Group](#)
- [Censuses](#)
- [Tithe records](#)
- [Fernhurst's iron industry](#)

Under “publications” there are the following society publications:

- [Voices of Fernhurst](#)
- [Village millennium map](#)
- [History walk booklets](#)

The Fernhurst Archives

The Fernhurst Archives operate under the auspices of the Fernhurst Society. The Archives hold documents and other objects of interest relating to Fernhurst (and formerly 'Farnhurst'), Kingsley Green, Henley and Verdley, in West Sussex.

Items are catalogued, stored and conserved for posterity and study. The holdings include old maps, manuscripts and diaries, [contemporary photographs](#), [old photographs](#) press cuttings and audio tapes of oral testimonies about the people, events, local clubs and other organisations in the locality. These are useful for those interested in local and regional British history and heritage, local traditions and customs, and West Sussex family history and genealogy. Other relevant records are held in the West Sussex Record Office in Chichester. Items from the Archives have been used in village [talks](#) and as source material for preparing a range of [publications](#). The Society's [Oral History group](#) keeps recorded interviews and their transcripts in the Archives.

The Archives in the village hall are open on Tuesday afternoons, 2.30-5.00 p.m. Offers of new material to add to the collection are always welcome. Enquiries to the Archive's Director, Christine Maynard, can be sent via the [Society's email](#) or by post to: The Fernhurst Archives, Fernhurst Village Hall, Glebe Rd, Fernhurst, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 3EH.

Examples of documents from the Archives are described via the links below.

Click on any image on this page to view a larger version (*note: the larger images may take a minute to download over slow internet connections*).

- [The Fernhurst Revels](#)
- [Historical maps](#)
- [The Verdley Estate and Verdley Castle](#)
- [Moments in Time... from the Archives](#)

- [Fernhurst in Living Memory, part 1: roads](#)
- [Fernhurst in Living Memory, part 2: railways](#)
- [Fernhurst in Living Memory, part 3: shops](#)
- [A Glimpse of Edwardian Fernhurst: school days](#)
- [A Glimpse of Edwardian Fernhurst: social life](#)
- [The Fernhurst Dornier 1943](#)
- [Blackdown air crash 1967](#)

Dates for 2011:

Thur 24th February: talk on the new Hindhead Tunnel by Jeremy Bayne-Powell (Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering). At 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) Fernhurst Village Hall

Thur April 14th: talk by Phil Beldon (South Downs National Park Authority) on the South Downs natural history & geology

Sun 1st May Bluebells walk. To be led by Robin Barnes around Greenhill, Fernhurst. The bluebells were sensational on a similar walk 2 years ago.

Sat 14th May: [Hindhead Tunnel Community Walk](#) (Pedestrian open day organised by Hindhead Together)

Sun 15th May: stall at Revels village fete

Sat 25th June: walk led by Adrian Bird on the Upper River Wey starting at Standford, near Passfield.

Sun 28th August: walk on Iping Common led by Bruce Middleton (South Downs National Park Authority)

Saturday/Sunday 10/11th September, *tbc* Fernhurst Furnace Open Days

Thur 27th October: Talk by David King (Wey and Arun Canal Trust) on the history & restoration of the Wey and Arun Canal. Village Hall 7.30pm for 8pm

Thur 24th November: AGM then illustrated talk by Peter Monger: *Hong Kong to West Sussex: an 80's Train Journey*

Ferring History Group

There is a link to a page on the Ferring Village website www.ferringvillage.co.uk but the page is a Ferring History Group May **2004!** newsletter with a programme of events for 2004-2005. At the top of the newsletter is the name, tel no. and email address of the editor: Ed Miller, Tel: 01903 502267 EdMiller43@msn.com

The group is, according to Mr Miller, "going stronger than ever"

Friends of East Sussex Record Office

The link to the FESRO website is www.fesro.org

For nearly thirty years FESRO has been supporting the work of East Sussex Record Office. Over those years the group have helped the record office to acquire and conserve many unique documentary sources for local and family history. Since such sources increasingly appear on the market, purchases are becoming ever more frequent.

To assist searchers we have also contributed to the purchase of additional equipment for the searchroom and we help to maintain the supply of good microfilm copies of documentary sources.

The Friends actively support moves to provide a new facility for the archives to be known as The Keep.

The Keep will be a modern and spacious record office that will eventually replace the cramped and outdated accommodation presently provided for the documents, staff and searchers at The Maltings and elsewhere.

Visits

FESRO organises occasional visits to places of interest in East Sussex led by specialists in the history of the area.

Documentary training sessions

We also organise training sessions on the use of documentary sources for family and local historians. They are advertised to members through our newsletter.

Contact details

Please direct any correspondence or membership enquiries to the appropriate officer c/o The East Sussex County Record Office, The Maltings, Castle Precincts, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1YT; Tel: 01273 482349; e-mail: fesro@btinternet.com
<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/localandfamilyhistory/esro/>

Registered Charity No. 296062

A membership application form can be downloaded from the website.

Friends of HMS Forward

The link goes directly to www.secret-tunnels.co.uk

HMS Forward (1939-1945) (The Secret Tunnels of South Heighton)

The website is dedicated to discovering the full facts about this previously undisclosed secret underground Naval Command Headquarters known as HMS Forward and NOIC Newhaven from 1941 to 1945. This 'cradle to grave revelation' details the conception, design, excavation, fitting-out, equipping, operation and purpose of the 500 metres of complex labyrinth excavated 22 metres beneath a large country house one mile north-east of Newhaven.

Friends of Lewes

See www.friends-of-lewes.org.uk

The Friends of Lewes was founded in 1952. It is a registered charity (No. 258756). Our aims are to stimulate public interest in the beauty, history and character of the town of Lewes and its surrounding area; and to organise concerted action for protecting and enhancing the townscape and for preserving free access to the surrounding area. The British Archaeological Society classified Lewes as one of 51 towns in the British Isles worthy of special attention. Over the last half-century the Friends of Lewes Society has played a major part in ensuring that the town retains that special classification despite constant pressure to develop the town.

- We play an active part in planning decisions affecting the town, in continual liaison with the County, District, and Town Councils, and other relevant Lewes associations.
- We undertake or support projects to preserve and enhance the fabric of the town.
- We organise meetings, debates, visits, and lectures on matters of interest relating to Lewes.
- We give awards to good projects that enhance the character of the town.
- We write and sponsor publications about Lewes.
- We produce cards, prints, tea-towels, and maps illustrating Lewes.

Future Events

All held in the Lecture Room of the Town Hall starting at 7.45pm. Members are advised to arrive early to secure seats as the talks may be very popular.

Thursday 24 February [Professor Harder](#) on “Why our hearts stop us from recycling”

Thursday 24 March Annual General Meeting

Thursday 7 April Talk by John Ford titled “Charles Dickens in Sussex”

Contact details

If you would like an application form, or further information before making a decision, please write to the Membership Secretary, Friends of Lewes Society, c/o Town Council Offices, Town Hall, High Street, Lewes BN7 2QS, which will receive a speedy reply; or telephone 01273 474521. You can e-mail us at enquiries@friends-of-lewes.org.uk. An application form can also be downloaded from the website.

Hailsham History and Natural History Society

Heritage Centre, Hailsham.

A small, but interesting, display including period kitchen, farming, local industry, photographs, memorabilia, wartime. Open May - September, Thursdays Fridays and Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm. Admission free. School groups and parties catered for. Monthly meetings with varied speakers at Hailsham Community Hall, 2nd Wednesday

each month (except July and August) at 7.30pm.

Blackmans Yard, Market Street, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2AE

Charity Number: 802501

Level access, disabled WC at meeting place.

Contact Details

Mrs Maxine Kitcher, Secretary, 4 Harebeating Crescent, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27

1JH Tel: 01323 843206

Hartfield and District History Group

The link is via the Parish Council page at www.hartfieldonline.com

:

History Group

Many members of the history group have lived in the village all their lives - and their parents and grand-parents before them. The knowledge of village life over the centuries is shared by the group in a number of excellent publications. The group meets most months of the year on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Hartfield Village Hall.

In addition to the indoor meetings, the group also arrange evening historical walks in the local area.

Contact: Mrs. Brenda Brunson on 01892 770 741

Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group

See www.haarg.org.uk

Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG) was founded in 1972 to enable those with an interest in local archaeology and history to take an active part in discovering and recording our district's past.

Events Programme

Weekly meetings are held on Wednesday mornings (10.30am - noon) with an evening meeting on the second Wednesday of each month (7.30 - 9.30pm). All are held at the Hastings History House, 21 Courthouse Street, Hastings Old Town TN34 3AU. The programme of events including field work can be found on this link [Events Programme](#)

All field work is notified to members via e-mail, in the regular newsletter or by telephone if held at short notice. Unfortunately this type of work is only offered to members of the society due to the requirements of the insurance company and to comply with the society's constitution. We are planning a spring excavation at a local Roman site between 25 April to 1 May 2011. Further details will be issued to all members nearer the time.

Wednesday 9th February 2011. 7.30-9.30. AGMs followed by refreshments and a talk on the end of 'Roman rule in Sussex' by David Rudling, Centre for Community Engagement, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RF. Course details are

available via telephone 01273 678300; e-mail cce@sussex.ac.uk or on the website www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/prospectivestudents/cep Visitors welcome for a small donation

Wednesday 9th March 2011. 7.30-9.30 Finds Processing and the spring excavation announcement

Wednesday 13th April 2011. 7.30-9.30 Evening to be hosted by our Chairman, Barbara.

Further details about the **Hastings History House and Old Hastings Preservation Society** may be found at [OHPS](#)

Hastings Local History Group

Encourages an interest in and research into the history and development of Hastings through the centuries.

Hastings Local History Group participates jointly with OHPS in the History House Project. History House will be open to the public on Thursdays from 10am - 1pm and on public holidays.

Meetings are split between Calvert Methodist Church, Calvert Road and Hastings History House, Court House Street.

For further information please contact Brian 01424 437253.

Hastings History House, 21 Court House Street, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 3AU
01424 424744

Calvert Road :- ramp, disabled toilet and signs.

Hastings History Centre :- disabled ground floor access only.

Contact Details Mrs Heather Grief, Hon. Secretary, 64 Tower Road West, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN38 0RL

Heathfield and District History Society

To further our interest in the history of people and areas in Sussex.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except July and August 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm.

Programmes available, £3.00 entrance fee (£5 a year) Tea or Coffee and biscuit provided. Very friendly gatherings and a summer outing. Good parking area, plus disabled parking. Hearing loop, flat wheelchair access, disabled toilet, well signed exit, and toilet entrance. We supply information on request by person, phone or letter. We do not have transport for disabled, but members with a car will provide travel.

Contact Details: Mrs M E Bracken, Chairman 01435 864142
Mrs Pamela Dram, Secretary 01435 865405

Henfield History Group

Meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. (doors open from 7.45 p.m.)
in the Free Church Hall in Coopers Way off the High Street

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

2011 / 2012

Everyone Welcome! Admission £2 Non-Members (Members by Subscription)

Enquiries Tel. 01273-492754 Julia Dew (Hon. Secretary)

12th April 2011	AGM and Renewal of Subscriptions followed by The Roadmender – Life & Works of Michael Fairless presented by Alan Barwick
10th May 2011	The Secret Sussex Resistance - Churchill's Secret Army at Tottington Manor by Stewart Angell of the Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team
14th June	Anglo-Saxon Sussex presented by Chris Hare
12th July 2011	2012 Prophecies - Exploring ancient predictions which point to 2012 as a time of change presented by Andy Thomas
August	No Meeting
13th September	Cecil Pashley: Shoreham's Pioneer Aviator presented by Alan Readman from the West Sussex Records Office
11th October 2011	A Building Historian's Lot presented by Annabelle Hughes
8th November 2011	Iron Industry in the Weald presented by Jeremy Hodgkinson
13th December 2011	Pepper's Ghost - Magic Lantern Show (Christmas Evening for members and guests. Please bring nibbles; mulled wine will be provided!)
10th January 2012	Witches, Warlocks & Wellingtons: Ritual Protection of the Home presented by Janet Pennington
14th February 2012	Grey Owl – The Hastings Indian Presented by Geoff Hutchinson
13th March 2012	The Ammonite Capital: Hallmark of Brighton and Hove – presented by John Cooper
10th April 2012	AGM and Renewal of Subscriptions followed by talk from member Richard Lawson-Cruttenden on the Ideals Nanochallenge

HENFIELD HISTORY GROUP
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2011 / 2012

Please enrol me / us as member(s), I/we enclose a subscription of:

Tick	£10 Single Membership
Appropriate	
Box	£15 Dual Membership

For the year to 31st March 2012

Cheques to be made payable to:
 Henfield History Group

Name (s)

Address

.....

Tel. No. E-mail

Please return to: Alan Barwick, Hon. Treasurer, Henfield History Group,
 6 Croft Villas, Church Street, Henfield, BN5 9NX
 or bring along to next meeting.

Henfield History Group (West Sussex) was formed in the early summer of 2000 by a small group of like-minded people, with the aim of encouraging and assisting research into all aspects of local history, including family history.

Elected Officers of the group are: Chairman - Steve Robotham, Treasurer - Alan Barwick, Secretary - Julia Dew, and as general committee members: Sally Caunt, John Vallance and John Whiting. The Committee would welcome any suggestions for future topics / speakers.

We hope that Henfield residents past and present will visit this site and perhaps share their memories and knowledge with us.

Please feel free to use the [MESSAGE BOARD](http://100megsfree.com/hhg/wwwboard/index.html)
 [http://100megsfree.com/hhg/wwwboard/index.html] to post a query, or for any comments and suggestions. You may also use the message board to answer a previous query. An e-mail address is given as henfieldhistorygroup@hotmail.com

Hurst Green Historical Society

See www.ryeandbattleobserver.co.uk

Village voice - January 23

Published on Thursday 22 January 2009

“News from Hurst Green

THE Historical Society held a well attended Annual Dinner on Wednesday. The Society meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall and presents a variety of interesting historical topics.

New members welcome and these need not be residents of Hurst Green. Come. Learn. Contribute. Enjoy.”

No further information currently available.

Hurstpierpoint Historical and Geographical Society

See www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk which is the website for Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council.

Hurstpierpoint Historical & Geographical Society Chairman - Bill Kent 01273 832280
The Society puts on a monthly programme of talks on local and more widespread Historical & Geographical topics.

Ifold Local History Society

Name:	Ifold Local History Society
Contact Details	Mrs Audrey Fox, Edmunds Hill Cottage, The Street, Plaistow, BILLINGSHURST West Sussex RH14 0NS
Phone (Daytime):	01403 871356
Phone (Evening):	01403 871356
Day/Time	Third Thursday of the month 8.00pm
Venue:	Members homes
Notes:	We are listed on our Plaistow & Ifold Village website.

Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council website is www.plaistowandifold.net/

Lancing and Sompting Pastfinders

See www.sites.google.com/site/lanscsompastfinders/

CONTACT: cokeham@talktalk.net

“Pastfinders” is a group of enthusiasts who meet once a month as a focus and forum for the local history of these two coastal villages.

(We also try to cover the nearby hamlets of Cokeham & Coombes.)

Our interests cover all aspects of local history including archaeology, genealogy, pictorial past, sociology, folklore and a number of other specialist strands. Personal research into our local heritage is encouraged.

Since our first meeting in 1996, we have investigated a variety of community subjects and events and our displays at Lancing Library have included local education, literary characters, wartime, mills and most recently, highways and byways. We have regular discussions, talks by members and outside speakers, a guided walk once or twice a year and at Christmas, a social event.

Members, individually, hold a number of archives – old documents, books, images, maps, ephemera and many other sources - which they are generally prepared to make available to each other for study and research

WHERE AND WHEN DO WE MEET?

Meetings are held generally on the first Tuesday of each month in Sompting, starting at 7.30pm. Please e-mail one of our contacts if you would like to know more.

There are links on the website to “Recent Research by Members”

Lewes Priory Trust

Not a history group or society inviting membership or holding regular meetings.

The Lewes Priory Committee, formed in 1969, became **Lewes Priory Trust** in 1980 with the aim of preserving and enhancing the remains of the Cluniac Priory of St Pancras and the surrounding area with the objective that it should become a facility of cultural, historic, educational and tourist importance of which the Town can be justifiably proud. The Trust manages the site of Lewes Priory on behalf of [Lewes Town Council](#) which is the freeholder.

In 2009 the Trust secured [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) and [English Heritage](#) grants with matching finance to consolidate the remains and provide explanatory signs, paths and

seating. This [Priory Park Project](#) will be linked to an educational programme with guided visits and a range of helpful literature. The construction work started in June 2010 when the site was temporarily closed to the public. It was completed and open once more in November 2010.

Lindfield History Project Group

See www.lindfieldhistory.org.uk

Join Our Group

We are an informal local history group formed in 2003, with a small membership, i.e. circa 20, that is actively studying the history of Lindfield village and the lands of the old parish. Our friendly group welcomes new members.

We generally focus on one specific topic at a time, although all our projects are ongoing as new information is discovered. We aim to make our findings available to the local community and others with an interest in Lindfield. Our aim is to trace, record and disseminate information on all aspects of the rich heritage of Lindfield parish in Sussex. If you have any information on Lindfield parish or its past residents which may be of interest to others, please [contact us](#).

Regular meetings are held to share our discoveries. New members are welcome. Subscription is just £12 yearly.

We meet monthly from September to July but two of these meetings are social events. The other meetings are usually held in the King Edward Hall, Lindfield and attendance is limited to members or invited guests. We do not hold public meetings with external speakers.

The subjects at our meetings are generated and presented by members, usually based on studies that have been undertaken. Most common topics are the history of a house/building or a person. A recent topic was 'The social conditions in Lindfield in 1911'. Other recent subjects have been, 'The Centenary of the King Edward Hall' [also the subject of an exhibition], 'History of Sponges', 'The Life of Frank Carey' [WW2 fighter ace], 'Inns and Alehouses'.

The group also provide guided walks around Lindfield for local history groups, U3A, and schools, etc, tailored to their particular interests.

Contact other than through our website 'contact page' is via the Chairman, Tel.01444 482136, and address is Lindfield History Project Group, 6 Hickmans Close, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 2PS.

There are examples of the group's work on the website under "Latest Articles". An example is copied below.

‘Our Lindfield – A Sense of Place’ Exhibition

By rjbryant06

Lindfield is well known as an historic village and certainly the High Street is centuries old. However much of Lindfield is less than one hundred years old, in fact the majority of the houses are under fifty years old. Have you ever wondered what was there before the houses were built? Perhaps more specifically, what was the land on which your house now stands used for, or who owned it in the past?

The Lindfield History Project Group attempted to answer these questions and many others at its successful ‘Our Lindfield’ exhibition held on 6th–7th October 2007 at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield

The exhibition sought to uncover the past and little known facts about each road or area in today’s village, in effect rolling back time to reveal Lindfield before the houses. It showed how Lindfield progressed from little more than one road surrounded by farms to the thriving community Lindfield is today. Over a thousand years of history were highlighted to provide a sense of place.

Material from the exhibition will feature in future articles.

Our studies to build up a comprehensive picture of the development of Lindfield are ongoing. Do you have any photographs, perhaps of your house being built, original sale particulars or any other items relating to your house, road or Lindfield in general? If so please [Contact us](#).

Littlehampton Local History Society

Contact Details: Mrs Gwen Eggleston, Sherbrook, 1 Milton Avenue Rustington
LITTLEHAMPTON West Sussex BN16 2PP

Phone (Daytime): 01903 776998 **(Evening):** 01903 776998

Additional Information

Day/Time April-September: 2nd Thursday of each month 7.30pm; October-March: 2nd Saturday of each month 2.30pm

Venue: Friends' Meeting House, Church Street, Littlehampton

Access: DISABLED ACCESS

Maresfield Historical Society

-
A notice on www.maresfieldparish.org under Local Development Framework Final Draft April 2006 states the Historical Society has recently closed through lack of support. But programmes are being arranged and there does appear to be a functioning society as at 2009-10. No website or contact is available

Mayfield Local History Society

There is a webpage about the society at: www.mayfield.org

Further information can be obtained from the Hon Secretary: Mr R Foster, Secretary,

Brambles, Lake Street, Mayfield, East Sussex TN20 6PT, Tel No: 01435 873215

The MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY was founded in 1975 to encourage interest in the history of Mayfield and the adjoining district. The Society has recently published a completely updated short historic GUIDE to Mayfield past and present, including the invaluable Mayfield Directory to local organisations and services. It is available locally @ £3.50 per copy

A small local history and archive collection is also maintained.

The main activity of the Society is the holding of a number of talks during the Winter months. These talks are on topics relating to the historical tapestry of people, events and buildings in the South East, especially in East Sussex

Annual membership for the season, which covers admission to all the monthly talks, is £5.00. Non members may attend individual talks at a cost of £2.00 per talk.

Click here to download an [application form](#)

Details of all the Society's activities are announced each month in the *Mayfield & Five Ashes Newsletter* (Yellow Pages). They are also mentioned in the Community Life section of the *Kent & Sussex Courier* newspaper.

Programme of Events for 2010/2011 season: -

Meetings at 8.00pm in the Scout & Guide Hall

Friday, March 25th 2011	Swing Riots of the 1830s	by Colin Manton
Friday, April 29th 2011	The History of Sussex Agriculture	by Geoffrey Mead
September 30th	Argos Hill Windmill- its past and future	Richard Howse & Philip Hicks
October 28th	Mayfield through Time	Brian O'Connor
November 25th	Travel in the past: the problems and pleasures of the journey.	Janet Pennington
January 27th 2012	The dregs of the people remain: The black death and its aftermath	Imogen Corrigan
February 24th	Archaeology in woodlands, (to be followed up with a walk to point out the archaeology of a Mayfield wood.)	David Brown

March 30th	Medieval Sussex - from Settlement to Dissolution	Dr Ian Friel
April 27th	Country life in Roman Sussex	David Rudling

Mid Sussex Local History Group

See www.local-history.co.uk/Groups/sussex.html where there is the following entry:

Mid Sussex Local History Group

Membership secretary: Mrs Joan Corless, Clwydia, 3 North Common Road, Wivelsfield Green RH17 7RH

Founded 1984

Meets monthly at Franklands village hall, Haywards Heath

127 members, 17 names on the waiting list

Meets for lectures on the third Tuesday of the month

Two or three outings of historical interest usually relating to the lectures. Annual

Chairman's summer party in August

Committee meets every other month

Research - 1989, Survey of local barns, condition of structure, use, history etc. No research undertaken since.

Extensive library of 200 local history books - selection relevant to the current lecture available at each lecture.

A particularly lively and friendly association of rather elderly members but has recently welcomed some younger members. The group has always had a waiting list despite similar groups in Burgess hill, Cuckfield, Wivelsfield and East Grinstead.

Programme for 2011

Jan 25 Tony and Lizzie Gilks, 'Sawbones, Quacks or inventive surgeons'

Feb 22 Joanne Wilkins, 'Anne of Cleves and her house'

Mar 22 Jennifer Goldsmith, 'the agricultural labourer's tale - a lost way of Sussex life'

Apr 26 Diana Crook, 'defying the demon - smallpox in Sussex'

May 24 Tony Pratt, 'Horsham to Littlehampton in 100 years (the Wey and Arun canal)'

June 28 David Briffett, 'The Crawley acid bath murderer - John George Haigh'

Aug 9 Summer party

Sept 27 Ian Gledhill, 'The history of Brighton's trams'

Oct 25 Michael Smith, 'Sussex and the Bayeaux Tapestry'

Nov 22 Hugh Miller, 'Vengeance on South East England (V1 and V2 attacks)'

Dec 13 AGM and Don Dray, 'The story of British music hall and variety'

Lectures will begin promptly at 10.45 am in Franklands Village Hall, Haywards Heath

Coffee is served from 10 am to 10.35 am.

Outings

May

Lamberhurst Vineyard and Godinton House (by coach)

Members will be advised of additional outings at the Spring lectures.

My Brighton and Hove

See www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk Not a group like the others, but is a useful resource. From the website:

“This [award-winning](#) website is a living history of Brighton and Hove. Through the site, people share their memories, photos, knowledge and opinions about the city - as it is today and as it was in the past. There are over 10,000 pages to explore and it's very easy to [add your own](#). Enjoy!”

Newhaven Historical Society

SOCIETY OFFICERS President: Lord Greenway

Chairman: Madeleine Richardson Tel: 01273-558165.

Email: chairman@newhavenmuseum.org.uk

Hon. Secretary: Mr Peter Simmons, 62, Lawes Avenue, Newhaven, BN9 9SB

Tel: 01273-514465. Email: secretary@newhavenmuseum.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Richard Beckett, 5, Fairholme Road, Newhaven, BN9 0NY

Tel: 01273-516396. Email: treasurer@newhavenmuseum.org.uk

Hon. Curator: Mr Peter Bailey M.B.E., 51 Hillcrest Road, Newhaven, BN9 9EE

Tel: 01273-514760

Museum Tel: 07760-713422. Email: info@newhavenmuseum.org.uk

Web Site: www.newhavenmuseum.org.uk

Newhaven Historical Society membership is open to anyone over the age of 16 years for an annual subscription of £6.00. Under 16 years of age membership is free. Details can be obtained from the Secretary. Membership of the Society allows free entry to Newhaven Local & Maritime Museum, and by reciprocal agreement, to Seaford Museum.

Free entry to Newhaven Local & Maritime Museum is granted to accompanied children, Seaford Museum members, Newhaven Railway Club members, Paradise Park ticket holders (identified by coloured stickers), Searchlight residents and carers, and other disabled persons and their carers.

Newhaven Historical Society holds meetings of general interest in the Hillcrest Centre, Hillcrest Road, Newhaven, on the first Tuesday of: February, April, June, August,

October and December commencing at 7.30pm.

PROGRAMME FOR 2011

April 5th Cuckmere Valley, Pictures Past, Carol Goble & Peter Howell

June 7th English Sussex Windmills, Bob Bonnett

August 2nd Newhaven Past in Pictures, Peter Bailey

October 4th The Secret Tunnels of South Heighton (Post 1997), Geoffrey Ellis.

December 6th T.B.A.

February 7th Annual General Meeting 2012

Northiam Historical & Literary Society

See www.local-history.co.uk/Groups/sussex.html

Contact: Mina Bond, Secretary

Tel No: 01797 253148

And see further information on www.northiamvillage.co.uk

Northiam & District Historical & Literary Society

The Society was formed in the 1950's to promote a wider understanding of local and national history and literary subject in an informal and friendly atmosphere through short lectures.

The Society is run by a Council of members who meet 5 times a year to organise the Society's activities.

The Society meets at the Northiam village Hall during the Autumn-Winter-Spring season.

Michael Clark (Chairman) 01797 253428 [Contact Michael Clark](#)

Neil Clement (Secretary) 01797 252629 [Contact Neil Clement](#)

List Of Speakers for 2010 - 2011

<i>12th October 2010</i> The Rise & Fall of the Cinque Ports	Terry Burke	<i>26th October 2010</i> WW II War in the Air (with AGM)	Andy Saunders
<i>9th November 2010</i> The History of Lesne Abbey	Roger McKenna	<i>23rd November 2010</i> Victorian & Edwardian Schooldays	Peter Ewart
<i>14th December 2010</i> A Romp with the Bard (including food & wine)	Peter Mold	<i>11th January 2011</i> The Dancing Decades	Don Dray
<i>25th January 2011</i> The History of the Union Castle Line	Peter Rushden	<i>8th February 2011</i> The Mystery of the Crop Circles	Andy Thomas

22nd February 2011 The Voyage of the Mayflower	David Clark	8th March 2011 Kent & Sussex in the 19th Century (including wine & nibbles)	Bob Ogley
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Nuthurst Society

See www.nuthurstsociety.org.uk This does not appear to be an historical society as such. The society aims to promote the community spirit within the five hamlets of Nuthurst, Maplehurst, Copsale, Monk's Gate and Sedgwick. The Society organises social and cultural activities and aims to maintain the rural conservation of the area.

The following contact names and tel. nos. were given for any questions about the society:

Marion Dann (? code) 891652

Karen Taylor (“) 891595

Derek Bradnum (“) 891181

Nutley Historical Society

See www.local-history.co.uk/Groups/sussex.html where there is an entry for this society.

Nutley Historical Society

Contact: Mrs Muriel Parker, Chairman, Tel No: 01825 712640

Founded 7 years ago by Nutley's Peter Kirby this is an immensely popular group and its events are high quality and well attended. Indoor meetings are in the Church Hall, Nutley on the last Thursday of the month (where possible) and in the summer there is an outing, walk, or visit every month on a selected date.

Programmes available from Chairman Mrs. Muriel Parker - 01825-712640.

Peter Kirby, Founder and Life President, is the author of the successful book published in 1998 illustrating the history of the village and its adjacent villages around the old pale of Ashdown Forest from 1850 until 1914. Entitled 'Forest Camera' the book is available at all good local bookshops.

Old Hastings Preservation Society

See www.ohps.org.uk

To promote the permanent preservation for the benefit of the Nation of buildings of beauty or historic interest, and in particular, such buildings in the County Borough of Hastings." – the first object for which the Association was established

Registered Office: Hastings History House, 21 Courthouse Street, Hastings Old Town, East Sussex. TN34 3AU; tel 01424 424744; email ohps@ohps.org.uk

Find us - [click](#)

Reg Charity No. 221623 Company No. 00611762

WINTER TALKS 2010/11

At Hastings History House, usually starting at 5.30 pm and lasting approximately one hour, admission £2, light refreshments available.

Enquiries: 01424-427718 or 812662 or 424719.

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Every Wednesday morning - 10.30am - 12.00noon

HASTINGS AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP (HAARG)

MEETINGS [and see HAARG entry above]

at Hastings History House. New Members welcome .

The second Wednesday in every month. 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Artifact identification and recording service available to non-members. New Members welcome .

Every day (except Christmas Day) 11.00am-4.00pm (10.00am-5.00pm during Hasting Week)

[FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM](#) , Rock a Nore. Formerly The Fishermen's Church, now exhibiting many fishing artefacts of yesteryear, the centrepiece of which is “The Enterprise”, one of the last Hastings Sailing Lugger. Entry Free, donations welcome. Every day (except Christmas Day) 11.00am-4.00pm (10.00am-5.00pm during Hastings Week)

EXHIBITION – “UNSEEN HASTINGS” at **FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM** . Images of paintings and photographs from Private Collections. Entry Free. Donation to Fishermen's Museum welcome. Every day (except Christmas Day) 11.00am-4.00pm (10.00am-5.00pm during Hastings Week)

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM QUIZ available from **FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM** . Keep your children busy looking around the Museum to find the answers. No cost but a small donation would be welcomed. Every day (except Christmas Day) 11.00am-4.00pm (10.00am-5.00pm during Hasting Week)

STADE QUIZ (Suitable for Adults and Older Children) available from **FISHERMEN'S MUSEUM**. Have an interesting tour around the Stade to find the answers. No cost but a small donation would be welcome.

Peacehaven and Telscombe Historical Society

This society is now dissolved, there is a link www.history-peacehaven-telscombe.org.uk

There is the following notice on the “contact form”:

“Society now dissolved. This site is now maintained privately by the last chairman Stanley Bernard for those who are interested in our local history.”

The following is an extract from the website:

“The Society still welcomes such enquiries, as they often come with some original documents which we can copy and archive as part of our local history collection. We also welcome old pictures which are scanned and returned to their owners. Although any donations of pictures or artifacts are most welcome, and may be displayed in our case in the Library.

The Society holds regular meetings with talks on second Wednesday of most months.

There is also an exhibition in Peacehaven Library. The pictures are changed each year, while occasionally we change items in the cabinets if and when new items are let for display. All originals are returned to owners and if required we will take a copy for display if required, please help by letting the Society borrow interesting items.”

For further details email thecompts@yahoo.co.uk

Stanley Bernard 2 The Compts Peacehaven East Sussex BN10 7SQ

Tel:07949 486471 Fax:0870 1679273 Email:thecompts@yahoo.co.uk

Petworth Society

See www.doompalm.westsussex.gov.uk

Name:	Petworth Society
Contact Details	Mr P. Jerrome, Trowels, Pound street, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 ODX
Phone (Daytime):	01798 342562 or (Evening) 01798 342562
Day/Time	Monthly, September-May
Venue:	Leconfield Hall, Petworth

There is the following information on the society’s charity website:

www.opencharities.org

THE SOCIETY PROVIDES A PROGRAMME OF TALKS AND VISITS ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS WHICH WILL BE OF INTEREST TO BOTH CURRENT AND EX RESIDENTS OF PETWORTH AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES.

Charity Number [268071](#)
Date Registered 1974-08-28
Contact Name

MR ANDREW HENDERSON
 Telephone 01798 343792
 Address 62 SHEEPDOWN DRIVE, PETWORTH, GU28 0BX

Pevensy & Westham Historical Society

There is a link to www.escis.org.uk

Helping the people of Pevensy & Westham know more of the history of Sussex and South East England

Meetings with speakers are held at Westham Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, with the exception of January and August. Non-members are welcome. Annual Membership Subscriptions: £3.50, or £6.00 for two or more living at the same address. Meeting entry charges: Members 25p, Non-members £1.00
 Gentle slope access. Disabled toilet. Hearing loop system.

Contact Details

Mr Hugh Miller, Chairman, 12 Montfort Road, Pevensy, Westham, East Sussex BN24 5HH Tel: 01323 762501
 E Feasey, Secretary, 9 Trossachs Close, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 8HH
 Tel: 01323 469013

Polegate and Willingdon local history society

See www.escis.org.uk

The Society's aim is to learn about the history of the county of Sussex,

The club was founded in 2003 by June Broady and Maureen Copping. We welcome members from anywhere who share our interest. The society meets once a month mainly on the third Friday of the month. Occasionally changes to the second Friday due to the hall availability. A programme of events including a variety of speakers and a few outings, is available at club meetings or from the archivist. Doors open at 6.45 pm, meeting starts at 7pm to 9pm. Researchers as well as visitors are welcome.
 St Johns Church Hall, High Street, Polegate

Email : pawhistory@btinternet.com

www.maureenschoice.co.uk/

Contact Details

Maureen Copping, Archivist Tel: 01323 485971
 Email as above

Our speakers for 2011 are

21 Jan - John Pick - History of the Hippodrome, Eastbourne

11 Feb - Peter Howell - The Cuckmere Valley

11 Mar - Phil Gardner - Eastbourne in the 1960s

15 April - Hugh Miller - Pevensy Without the castle

20 May - Don Dray - History of the British Seaside
 24 June - Malcolm Pratt - Winchelsea in the 18th century.
 15 July - David Calvert - History of Herstmonceux Castle
 19 Aug - Elizabeth Hughes - Gods Acres, Churchyards and what they tell us.
 16 Sept - Dr Michael Harte - History of a 15th century Wealden House
 21 Oct - Peter Longstaff-Tyrrell - AGM and Polegate
 18 Nov - John and Thelma Burgess - A Peep into the Past, a Victorian Magic Lantern show
 No meeting in December as we have a Christmas meal. Date and venue to be arranged.

Outings and visits

18 May - coach trip to Weald and Down land Open Air Museum
 June - visit to East Hoathly with tour of church, visit to Thomas Turner's House.
 July - visit - Windmill, at Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux
 Aug - Coach trip to Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham.
 Dates to be confirmed at our meetings.
 Email cyndy.jones@mpostoffice.co.uk or pawhistory@btinternet.com

If you would like to assist with some history research please contact me. When leaving telephone messages on my answer phone, please SPEAK SLOWLY, AND CLEARLY when leaving TELEPHONE NUMBERS. If you do not get a reply within seven days, then please write to me at P.O. Box 2951, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9WZ. Or email pawhistory@btinternet.com

Pulborough Local History Group

See www.local-history.co.uk

Pulborough Local History Group

Contact: Mr D Morris, 13 Downlands, Pulborough RH20 2DQ

Ringmer History Study Group

There is a link to www.ringmerinfo/ where the following information about the group can be found.

The Ringmer History Study Group was founded in 1981. It has grown to become one of the largest and most active village societies. From October to June we hold regular Friday evening meetings on topics of local interest, while in the summer we have a programme of guided walks, local visits and other events. We encourage individual members and small groups to carry out their own research, and assist them to disseminate the results of their studies. We have helped to preserve and restore memorials of old Ringmer and have built up a substantial collection of old photographs. Each year we publish and distribute to members eight or nine issues of Ringmer History Newsletter. To consult the indexes to

the first 250 newsletters, click in the appropriate box. Newsletters can be consulted at Ringmer and Lewes libraries and the county record office in Lewes. A reference of 125,1 indicates that the article is in newsletter number 125, page 1.

How can you contact us? Just e-mail the website. Alternatively, if you live in the United Kingdom and wish to join Ringmer History Study Group and thereby receive Ringmer History Newsletter, send £4.00 to Bob Cairns, Penn House Lewes Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5ER. We are sorry that we are currently unable to accept overseas members, but if anyone wishes to share information with us (either way), do please e-mail the website at rhsg@ringmer.info

Roman Ringmer Study Group

The Roman Ringmer Study Group is a sub-section of the Ringmer History Study Group. The project is co-ordinated by Bob Cairns and Franz Plachy. It's aim is to examine all available evidence of Roman activity in Ringmer and, if appropriate, to undertake field studies to determine the nature of Roman occupation and activity in Ringmer. It will gather the evidence and publish a report with conclusions and proposals for further action, if necessary.

The inaugural meeting was held on 18th November 2010 when four working groups were established. These are: Maps, landscape, finds and context.

Anyone who would like to be involved with this project will be very welcome. Please contact Bob on 812784. The next meeting will be held on 3rd February at Bob's house, so please give him a ring before the meeting.

PROJECT OUTLINE

PURPOSE AND AIMS

To examine all available evidence and, if appropriate, undertake field studies to determine the nature of Roman occupation and activity in Ringmer. To gather the evidence and publish a report with conclusions and proposals for further action, if necessary.

PHASE 1

- A) To examine existing evidence for Roman occupation and activity in Ringmer.
- B) To uncover and consider any new evidence for the same.

Methods :-

1. Gather existing written evidence.
2. Gather finds information (SAS, British Museum, County Archaeologist, metal detectorists, etc.).
3. Gather geographical evidence - place and field names, maps, roman roads and track ways etc. and historical land use.
4. Examine the nature of Roman settlements in the area.
5. Consider evidence from Roman digs in the Ringmer Parish.
6. Plot all evidence onto a large scale parish map.
7. Gain information about known Roman activity in Sussex (and wider if appropriate) to establish a framework into which Ringmer could fit.
8. Seek information from Ringmer people on unreported finds, observations, anecdotes etc. on anything potentially Roman.

9. Ensure the county plan is updated and matches the Ringmer one.

PHASE 2

A) Ensure all information from phase 1 is collated and stored.

B) Prepare an interim report.

C) Prepare plans for, and undertake, fieldwork (including geophysics, walking and metal detecting) on identified potential sites.

Methods:-

1. To be determined at the appropriate time depending on the outcomes of phase 1.

PHASE 3

If required, to be determined after phase 2.

Robertsbridge and District Archaeological Society

See: www.aboutrobertsbridge.org.uk

The society was formed in 1962 by two Robertsbridge schoolboys, John and David Martin, with the enthusiastic help of their mother Dorothy. The Society still thrives today with a large membership but over the years has evolved into more of a local history society. The Society always welcomes new members. Please contact the Secretary: Mrs A.M. Barden, Lime Tree Cottage, Bellhurst Road, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5DS or email [archaeology](mailto:archaeology@robertsbridge.org.uk)

The Society holds 8 meetings a year and usually arranges at least one outing as well. The current programme of meetings for 2010-11 is shown here.

Date	Title	Speaker
October 8th 2010	The Voyages of Captain Cook	David Allen
November 12th 2010	A History of Gatwick	Dave Harrison
December 10th 2010	Elsie Bowerman Survivor of the <i>Titanic</i> <i>Judith Kininson Burke</i>	Members Christmas meeting with refreshments
January 14th 2011	Neither Town nor Country Houses in the Local Village	David Martin
February 11th 2011	The Tale of Beatrix Potter	Mrs HVO Heather Woodward
March 11th 2011	Tom Crean	Mike Smith
April 8th 2011	The Black Death	Imogan Corrigan
May 13th 2011	History and Early People of Sussex This meeting includes the AGM	Peter Brandon

All meetings are held at Robertsbridge Hall, Station Road, Robertsbridge and start at 7.45pm; the meetings are free but a collection is made to defray expenses. Meetings are open to non-members.

Rustington Heritage Association

The link www.local-history.co.uk offers the following contact entry:

Contact: Mr H Clark 29 Knightscroft Avenue, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 2HN

Tel No: 01903 784792

There is information about the museum in an article from *Sussex Life* at

www.sussex.greatbritishlife.co.uk

“The history of the Parish of Rustington was first documented in several books by local historian Mary Taylor in the 1980s. The research for these books created such a vast amount of material relating to the history of Rustington that it was suggested that this material should be collected, preserved and made more accessible to the local community.

In 1983 the Rustington Heritage Association was formed and an exhibition room was opened at Rustington Parish Council offices. A few years later it was decided that bigger premises were needed to house the Rustington Heritage Association’s growing collection. In 2005 Church Farm Cottages, a Grade II listed building in the centre of Rustington was purchased by the Parish Council for this purpose. With donations from local businesses and individuals, a local ‘Raise the Roof’ campaign raised funds for a new thatched roof for the building. A complete renovation of the cottage and construction of the Garden Café, an oak – timber framed building in the grounds of the museum, was completed in April 2008.”

From the Rustington Museum website <http://www.rustingtonmuseum.org/RHA.htm>

:

“Rustington Heritage Association was formed in 1983 to promote interest by the public in the history, living conditions and activities of the community’

The Rustington Heritage Association holds public meetings on the last Thursday of each month (except August and December) at 2.30pm in the John de Bohun Room at The Woodlands Centre, Woodlands Avenue, Rustington. Talks and demonstrations are given by guest speakers on interesting and entertaining subjects relative to the broad history and heritage concept. Membership benefits include a discounted entrance fee. A quarterly newsletter is delivered to all members. The Association also gives talks on the history of Rustington to local groups and leads guided walks around the village in the summer months.

If you would like to become a member of the Rustington Heritage Association please call the Membership Secretary on 01903 779025 or call into the museum and ask for a membership application form. Rustington Heritage Association has been a registered charity since 1993 and is fully Accredited with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.”

Rye Local History Group

There is a website at www.ryemuseum.co.uk where a link gives the following information about Rye Local History Group:

In the 1980s, several members of the Rye Museum Association saw the need for a group interested in researching Rye's history, and eventually, in 1984, an independent group was set up. Alan Dickinson was the first Chairman of sixteen Founder Members of the Rye Local History Group, which aimed to research and record information, and hold monthly meetings with lectures and discussions, in Rye Library.

With a new Chairman, Eric Wetherill from 1992, the membership grew apace, needing steadily larger premises. Outside visits and a regular Newsletter were developed. A specially commissioned Rye Pottery mug was made available to members in 1994, to mark the Group's first ten years.

The Group was authorised by the County Archaeologist to observe and record archaeological and historical aspects of excavations in Rye. 1994 saw Group members working in this way on the Hospital site on Rye Hill, and in 1996 the Group ran its own Archaeological 'Dig' in the centre of Rye.

An Index of Holloway's 'Antiquities of Rye' (1994) and an illustrated book of the monumental inscriptions throughout Rye Cemetery (1996) were published, having been researched in detail by Group members.

Contact Details

The group is now amalgamated with the Rye Museum Association and there is a link to a "Joining Form" from a link to the association on the above website.

The form is to be returned to: Membership Secretary, Rye Museum, 3 East Street, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7JY; Telephone: 01797 226728; Email: info@ryemuseum.co.uk

Selsey Society

The society has a website www.selseysociety.co.uk

Contact Details

Mr John Mason, The Manor House 27, The Willows Selsey West Sussex PO20 0JT

Phone (Daytime): 01243 607037 **Phone (Evening):** 01243 607037

E-Mail: pdgjohnliz@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile no: 07879 402407 Alternative contact: Ruth Mariner (Chairman) 01243 604698.

Day/Time Second Thur of the month 7.30pm (except Jan, Feb, July and August)

Venue: St. Peter's Church Hall, St. Peter's Crescent, Selsey, West Sussex

Members have differing levels of involvement; some carry out research into topics with the intention of publishing the results in *Selsey Life* and publications for sale, or to present to the monthly meetings, or simply for their own enjoyment. Others are content to enjoy the monthly meetings with speakers on topics relating to local history in general

and Selsey in particular.

Details of these meetings are published in the monthly member's letter, the Selsey Parish Magazine, the Chichester Observer and Selsey Life, as well

2011	Subject/Event
Jan & Feb	Winter Break
10th March	Wildlife & Natural History of the Manhood
14th April	Witches, Warlocks and Wellingtons
12th May	Beneath Our Feet, the rocks and fossils of Selsey
9th June	From Stranger to Citizen
July & August	Summer Break
8th September	Bygone Village Life in West Sussex
13th October	Life in Chichester in the 50s (with photos)
10th November	Chichester Harbour, the last 100 years
8th December	Open All Hours (General Stores in the 30s and 40s)

Shoreham Society

A civic society with newsletter, including historical material, four times a year.

Contacts:

Email: info@shorehamsociety.org.uk

Phone:

Membership secretary: 01273 452107

Treasurer: 01273 463096

Journal editor: 01273 463096

Journal advertising: 01273 463356

Journal distribution: 01273 452005

Membership costs only £5 a year for an individual or £8 for a couple (reduced to £3 single and £5 couple for seniors). Benefits include the quarterly journal and other updates, reduced entry at events, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to the welfare of our town.

A Membership costs only £5 a year for an individual or £8 for a couple (reduced to £3 single and £5 couple for seniors). Benefits include the quarterly journal and other

updates, reduced entry at events, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to the welfare of our town.

A membership form is available on the website (<http://www.shorehamsociety.org.uk/join.html>) and should be sent with cheque (made payable to "The Shoreham Society") to the membership secretary:

Philip Hamerton
18 Cissbury Way
SHOREHAM-by-Sea
BN43 5FW

For further information call him on 01273 452107 or [email here](#)

Steyning Society

See www.steyningsouthdowns.co.uk

Steyning History Society

7.30pm September-May 4th Tuesday of the month. For more information, please contact Ian Ivatt. Telephone: 01903 813230

70. Storrington & District Museum

See www.storringtonmuseum.org where the home page gives the following information:

A Local History Resource

Opened in April 2000 to mark the Millennium, the Museum aims at preserving yesterday for tomorrow. It houses local archaeology, articles from local churches, domestic history, details of local people and their memorabilia, artifacts of vanished local places, trades and services and articles from the two world wars. The Museum not only covers Storrington, but the surrounding villages of Amberley, Ashington, Bury, Cootham, Parham, Sullington, Thakeham, Washington, West Chiltington and Wiggonholt.

The Museum has a library of local history and has access to old maps and census records and welcomes inquiries for local family history and property. There is a regular newsletter, a programme of winter lectures and summer historical walks and excursions. The Museum welcomes visitors from all over the country and from abroad and supports local schools with its education programme.

The Society needs to raise funds for the day to day running of the Museum and for its conservation work and also needs new members to carry the work forward and staff the Museum during opening hours. The Museum is run entirely by volunteers.

Programme 2011

Please note all Monday evening talks will be held at the Old School, School Lane, Storrington. Starting promptly at 7.30 pm. Entrance £3. Non Members Welcome.

SAT, 28th MAY. **Craft demonstrations and articles for sale.** - 10am - 4pm.

TUES, 21st JUNE. **Visit to Buncton and Coombes Churches** with Robin Milner-Gulland - 2pm. Meet outside Buncton Church (a short walk required to access both churches) £4.50

THURS, 21st JULY. **Know your Storrington** - 2pm. Village walk with Eunice Allen followed by refreshments at the Old School. Meet at the Museum £4.50

TUES, 2nd AUGUST. **Visit West Blatchington Windmill, Hove.** - 2pm. Tour by Peter Hill followed by refreshments. Cost including entrance fee £4.50

SAT, 6th AUGUST. **Mills Creativity Day** - 10am - 4pm. For children - prizes!

THURS, 25th AUGUST. **Junior Archeology Day.** - 10am - 4pm. Dig for buried treasure, make bronze pots and Saxon runes. Children 4-11 £5 per child, adults free (children must be accompanied by an adult) Refreshments available. Further details: Contact Museum 01903 740188

WED, 14th SEPTEMBER. **Visit to Littlehampton Museum** after which members may wish to visit the Look & Sea! - 2pm. Visitor and Heritage Centre nearby £3.00

SAT, 17th SEPTEMBER. **Flour and Food Day.** - 10am - 4pm. How we use what mills produce. Bread, cakes. Come and see and buy.

SUN, 16th OCTOBER. **Family History Day.** - 10am - 4pm. Reasearching your family tree. Refreshments available. Admission £2.00. Children under 11 years free

SAT, 22nd OCTOBER. **Quiz Evening** - 7pm for 7.30pm. Storrington Village Hall

SAT, 12th NOVEMBER. **Toys & Trains** 10am - 4pm. special event for children of all ages.

SAT, 26th NOVEMBER. **Christmas Fair.** - 10am - 4pm. Father Christmas, gifts, books, games, lucky dip. Prizes!

SAT, 10th DECEMBER. **Father Christmas.** - 10am - 4pm. Christmas fun day. Competitions, games, and lots more.

Contact Us

address: The Old School, School Lane, Storrington, West Sussex, RH20 4LL

tel: 01903 740188; email: info@storringtonmuseum.org

Sussex Heritage Trust

The website www.sussexheritagetrust.com offers the following information:

Sussex Heritage Trust is a Registered Charity established in 1977 to preserve, improve and encourage the appreciation of the architectural and natural heritage of Sussex

We do this in several ways:

- By taking an active interest in Sussex conservation issues
- By highlighting, surveying and reporting on Buildings at Risk
- By working with local authorities on heritage projects
- By giving advice on restoration and repair
- By encouraging and assisting owners of heritage properties
- By offering a membership scheme with special discounts for all Sussex Heritage Trust events
- Discounts and offers at a number of restaurants, hotels and attractions throughout Sussex
- A directory of specialist craftsmen in Sussex

The Awards Scheme, started in 1998, has brought to light many fine examples of conservation, preservation and rejuvenation projects across the county.

One can become a friend of the Trust and an application form can be downloaded from the website. There is an email link from the website along with the following contact details:

Mrs Annette Coombes

Administrator , The Granary, Cornfords Yard, High Street, Uckfield TN22 1RJ - Tel: (01825) 767087

Sussex Historic Churches Trust

The Trust was founded in 1956 and gives grants or interest-free loans for essential repairs and restoration of places of worship of architectural or historic interest throughout Sussex. Over the years the Trust has helped more than 470 churches.

One can become a Friend of the Trust. The Friends are an informal group of likeminded people who have an interest in the wellbeing of Sussex churches.

The Friends receive a regular newsletter keeping them up to date on what's going on, and enjoy organised events such as visits of interest, lectures, and fund-raising activities which enables them to make generous donations to the Trust.

If you would like to join the Friends, please contact Mrs Joy Taylor, Secretary of the Friends of Sussex Historic Churches Trust, on 01243 783398 or visit their website www.friendsofsussexhistoricchurchestrust.co.uk Otherwise the Trust can be contacted via an email link on the website.

Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society

The website is www.sussexias.co.uk

What is Industrial Archaeology ?

It is the study of the working life of past generations through the physical and documentary evidence that they left.

Our Activities

SERIAC Conference 2011

**will to be Hosted by SIAS at the University of Sussex
16th April 2011**

We record and study the remains of past industries and the achievements of the people concerned with them. This involves surveying, drawing, and photography, as well as the written word. The results are published in our annual journal - [*Sussex Industrial History*](#) - which is on sale to non-members. Brief records go into our quarterly [*Newsletter*](#) to keep members abreast of what is going on.

We also restore buildings and machinery, sometimes for display to the public at the [Amberley Museum](#), West Sussex. This gives those interested the opportunity to acquire practical skills. Members are insured on Society projects.

The S.I.A.S. is affiliated to the [Association for Industrial Archaeology](#) and the [Sussex Archaeological Society](#) and works closely with the [Amberley Museum](#), the [Wealden Iron Research Group](#), the [Wey and Arun Canal Trust](#), and the [Weald and Downland Open Air Museum](#).

We collaborate with - the East and West Sussex County Councils, Southern Water Services, and the National Trust.

The Society also participates in the [South East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference \(SERIAC\)](#), having been instrumental initiating it. This brings together IA and similar societies in Kent, Greater London, Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey and Sussex in an annual one-day meeting.

The Society's activities are of increasing interest to visitors to Sussex, particularly to those from abroad who are working in the same field. Details of over 200 industrial remains in Sussex are contained in the latest edition of the Field Guide, obtainable from the Society.

The Society has initiated a simple county-wide survey of buildings, items and remains of industrial archaeological interest. This is being carried out by members in their own localities and volunteers are needed to fill in the remaining parts of Sussex. When completed this survey will be an invaluable source of national reference.

The Canal Group and Mills Group are two associated groups within SIAS for those with a particular interest in canals and mills.

Forthcoming SIAS Members Events 2011:

Weekend of 14th-15th May. National Mills Weekend

See *Mills Newsletter* for details

Saturday 4th June, 9.50am. *Trip up the Brighton Line, visit to Clayton Tunnel Cottage, the Ouse Valley Viaduct at Balcombe, and will include visits to some other interesting IA sites on the way*

Saturday 9th July, 2.15pm. *Guided tour of the De Witt Kilns at Amberley Museum*

Wednesday 20th July. *Sussex Mills Group visit to the Mills Archive and Rural Life Museum at Reading.*

The following two visits have been organised by the Chichester Canal Group in conjunction with Chichester Festivities. For further details contact Adge Roberts adgerobert@yahoo.co.uk or 01903 721762

Saturday 25th June, 10.00 am. Guided walk along part of the old Portsmouth and Arundel Canal Walk the towpath and see many engineering remains of the canal.

Meet at Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham – follow signs from Murrell Arms. Approx. 3 mile walk.

Sunday 26th June, 10.00 am to 4.00pm. Poyntz Bridge

A **membership form** can be downloaded from the website.

Membership Secretary: Peter Holtham, 12 St Helen's Crescent, Hove, BN2 8EP

Sussex Martyrs Commemoration Council

The West Sussex Library page at www.westsussex.gov.uk gives a link.

Contact Details Mr F W Wallis 89 Farlington Avenue Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 3EZ **Phone (Daytime):** 01444 451645 **E-Mail:** fwrwallis@yahoo.co.uk

There was the following information at www.escis.org.uk

“In memory of 36 Protestant martyrs burned alive. 36 Martyrs lived within Sussex, 17 of those Martyrs were burnt at Lewes, 19 being burnt elsewhere. 10 of the 17 Martyrs burnt at Lewes were held in the vault of Lewes Town Hall the night before. Regular meetings as requested at various locations. Care and maintenance of Lewes Martyrs Memorial and active interest elsewhere.”

Sussex Military History Society

The website: www.sussexmilitary.org.uk

The Sussex Military History Society was formed in late 1998 to encourage regeneration of county militaria, aeronautica and naval material. All classes of interests are encouraged, primarily current membership covers the Napoleonic period through to postwar defence subjects.

Monthly meetings are held from 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. The venue is the Function Room above the Royal Oak, Station Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Monthly newssheets are available at meetings, with topical news and information, plus future projects.

Forthcoming events:

Wednesday 18 May 2011 **Custer's Last Stand**, Norman Franks
Venue: The Royal Oak, Lewes

Saturday 28 May 2011 **Operation Sussex - Study Day**
Newhaven Fort

Wednesday 15 June 2011 **Effects of modern war TV reporting**, Dave Dimer
Venue: The Royal Oak, Lewes

Wednesday 20 July 2011 **MI9 and the escape of military personnel from WW2 occupied territories**, John Burton
Venue: The Royal Oak, Lewes

Monthly meetings

7.30pm for 8.00pm start
Function Room of the Royal Oak Public House, Station Street, Lewes, East Sussex

Contact details

A membership form can be downloaded from the website to be sent to:
Stewart Angell Esq, Sussex Military History Society, 23 Hadlow Avenue, Langney,
Eastbourne BN23 8EL; Email enquiries@sussexmilitary.org.uk

Sussex Postal History Society

There is a link at www.doompalm.westsussex.gov.uk

Contact Details: Mr R J Davies 4 Marlborough Road Worthing West Sussex BN12 4EZ
Phone (Daytime): 01903 241503 **Phone (Evening):** 01903 241503

Day/Time 1st Saturday of the month at 2.30pm

Venue: East Worthing Centre, Pages Lane, Worthing, West Sussex [Click for Map](#)
Access: DISABLED ACCESS **Notes:** Venue phone: 01903 212855

Sussex Record Society

The website is www.sussexrecordsociety.org.uk

The society was founded in 1901 for the publication of records and documents relating to the county of Sussex. The Society commissions research by individuals who are experts in their field to produce historical records in the selected area of research of the County of Sussex in the United Kingdom. The research is published in book form with the help of the Society's historical, literature, technical, publishing and financial help provided by the members of the Society. Over the last 100 years the Society has published 91 volumes of detailed historical research into the County of Sussex from 1066 to World War I.

By joining the Society you will be playing your part in keeping up this vital work. And in practical terms you will receive each new volume - free – when it is published and will also have the opportunity to buy volumes from our existing stock at considerably reduced prices (usually a discount of around 33%). Our main social occasion is our AGM - which we try to arrange at different venues of historical interest around the county with a lecture rounding off the formal business of the day.

Contact: Barbican House, High Street, Lewes, BN7 1YE
[Richard Martin, Secretary](#) - An application form can also be accessed via the website.

Thomas Paine Society

In the strictest sense not a local Sussex history society. The society's website is at:
www.thomaspainesociety.org.uk

The Society's objectives are:

“To promote the recognition of Thomas Paine's contribution to the cause of freedom, and to spread a knowledge of his work and activities with a view to encouraging the growth of a similar spirit of constructive criticism in every aspect of public life”

The website gives details of a fringe event at the Brighton Festival: “Thomas Paine at the Brighton Festival May 27 6pm 2011, The Old Courtroom.

Contact: Barbara Jacobson (Secretary), 19 Charles Rowan House, Margery Street, London, WC1X 0EH, Tel: 020 7833 1395, postmaster@thomaspainesocietyuk.org.uk
An application form can also be downloaded from the website.

Uckfield and District Preservation Society

The society's website is: www.udsp.co.uk

The Local History Group was formed following a successful exhibition at Bridge Cottage organized by several of our members in October 1988. During the winter and spring months the Group runs a varied series of well attended talks at Uckfield Civic Centre.

The popular research journal *Hindsight* (now in its 15th edition) first appeared in 1995. Copies may be obtained from :- Michael Harker, The Cottage, Eastbourne Road, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3ST; or Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre; or UDPS, Charity Shop at Post Office Court, Uckfield; or online [here](#).

For up to date details of our activities, go to [Events](#) or see the Society's printed programme or e-mail publicity@udps.co.uk.

WINTER TALKS

Ashdown Room, Uckfield Civic Centre 19:30 on the first Friday of the month.
Admission: members £2.00; non-members £3.00

Friday 6th May: Old Rural Days by Melvin Smith

Contact details: Membership Secretary: Margaret Mugridge Tel. 01825 732924; Email finance@udps.co.uk

Walberton History Group (including Fontwell and Binsted)

The group's website is www.walbertonag.org.uk

When Walberton Action Group completed its Millennium Map project towards the end of 1999, such was the enthusiasm for another project that the formation of a History Group was a natural. In preparing the map a wealth of information had been unearthed and a number of villagers gave the idea their support. Some information had already been published including "Walberton Past and Present" as well as a number of pamphlets celebrating the hundredth anniversary of Parish Councils. A good basis for further research was already in place.

Each winter there is a series of talks by various speakers covering a wide range of topics as diverse as Downland Churches, Secrets of the Georgian Bedchamber, the History of Portsmouth Dockyard and the Sussex Home Guard. The majority of these Meetings are held in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall.

Both the Church of England School and the Churches play a prominent role in the activities of the History Group, each contributing to the history of the Village.

Contact Details

Chairman: Vince Cooper (Chairman), Green Hedges, Avisford Park Rd, Walberton, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0AP; Tel; 01243 551544; e mail gessima@uwclub.net

Warbleton and District History Group

The following entry at www.escis.org.uk

Local history research group. Meetings held at Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green, 2nd Monday of every month. Recordings of the talks may be borrowed free of charge.

Membership includes free admission to meetings and use of the library, £7.00 per year. Winter walks (until April) Saturdays, 2.00pm. Summers walks Wednesdays 7.00pm. Extensive archives are available.

Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 9QD

Contact: Jonathan Austin, Secretary, Tel:01435 830280;
e-mail joncaustin@btinternet.com

Wartling History Group

There is a contact tel. no. for the Herstmonceux Local History Group (HLHG) in the on-line Herstmonceux and Wartling Directory. But the HLHG is no longer operational and “the reins had been handed over” to the Wartling History Group, with the following contact details:

Alan Brown, 3 Nursery Lane, Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4TP
Tel. 01323 831754

This group does not hold regular meetings but has a collection of old photographs of the area and once a year puts on a photographic exhibition. The group is closely affiliated to the Warbleton and District History Group.

Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG)

The website is at www.wealdeniron.org.uk

About WIRG

The Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG) was founded to focus and initiate [research](#) into the extinct iron industry of the Sussex, Kent and Surrey Weald, and aims to foster interest in this subject, to work with other groups and institutions having allied aims and,

above all, to publish its researches. In its annual bulletin, [Wealden Iron](#), can be seen the results of this work, together with articles by historians and archaeologists on different aspects of the industry. The group also publishes a twice-yearly [Newsletter](#) for its members. One of the original aims of WIRG, to publish a new survey of the industry, has resulted in the new standard reference on the subject, [The Iron Industry of the Weald](#), by Henry Cleere and David Crossley, first published in 1985 and which ran to a second edition, and contains much of WIRG's research over the past thirty-five years. This book is now out of print but can be borrowed from libraries or purchased second-hand. [The Wealden Iron Industry](#) by Jeremy Hodgkinson, for many years chairman of WIRG, was published recently, is an excellent introduction to the subject. In 1981, the group won the BBC's Chronicle Award for Archaeology.

Although WIRG is predominantly a loose association of individuals who pursue their own interests and researches, it does have active sections which engage in particular activities. Its Field Group organises a monthly [programme of fieldwork](#) between October and April, looking for undiscovered sites, surveying, and carrying out small-scale excavations. Meetings on Saturdays, the forays, as they are called, take place all over the Weald, and a number of projects are in progress (see [programme and short Video](#)). One of these is the systematic field walking of an area of the Weald to record all the iron-making sites there. Another group within WIRG undertakes [experimental iron smelting](#) at a primitive bloomery furnace on Ashdown Forest, attempting to replicate the products and waste materials of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval iron makers. Members assisted in an experimental smelt for one of the [Time Team's](#) broadcasts. The group holds two meetings a year, in January/February and in July, with visiting speakers. The summer meeting also includes a site visit. In addition, the group advises archaeological units where iron-related material is being excavated, and has provided information for several television and radio programmes. Some of WIRG's members are regular lecturers to local societies, and have run [adult education courses](#) on the industry.

How to join WIRG

Membership of WIRG is open to individuals, families and institutions, students and those of pensionable age, and includes a bi-annual Newsletter and the [Wealden Iron](#) Bulletin. [Activities](#) include a Field Group, which organises a programme of fieldwork in the autumn and winter, bi-annual meetings with visiting speakers, small-scale excavations, and a variety of other projects undertaken by its members. WIRG administers the Tebbutt Research Fund which awards small grants towards research into the Wealden iron industry.

The current subscription rates in Sterling are:

Individual	£7.00	(Optional) OAP	£6.00
Family	£10.00	Student	£3.00
Institution	£10.00		

You may find out more by contacting David Brown, Hon Sec, 2 West Street Farm Cottages, Maynards Green, Heathfield, TN21 0DG, tel. 01435 812506 or e-mail

wirghonsec@hotmail.com or [David Brown](#).

Download an application form in PDF format by clicking [HERE](#). Complete and post it to The Hon. Secretary with your cheque made payable (in sterling) to **Wealden Iron Research Group**. If you pay tax, you may wish to complete the Gift Aid form, as well, to help the Group reclaim your tax.

West Hoathly Local History Group

See www.doompalm.westsussex.gov.uk

Contact Details

Mr A M Hunt , Forestside, The Hollow West Hoathly East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 4QE **Phone (Daytime):** 01342 810534 **Phone (Evening):** 01342 810534

E-Mail: tony_hunt@dsl.pipex.com

Day/Time Wednesday mid-month

Venue: Sharpthorne Church Hall, West Hoathly

Notes: Please phone to check venue before attending.

85. West Sussex Archives Society

See www.doompalm.westsussex.gov.uk

Contact Details

Caroline Adams (Chairman), C/O West Sussex Record Office County Hall Chichester West Sussex PO19 1RN **Phone (Daytime):** 01243 753617 **E-Mail:**

caroline.adams@westsussex.gov.uk or **Website:** www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro

Day/Time Usually second Saturday afternoon of the month except August and January

Venue: Various, but usually West Sussex Record Office [Click for Map](#)

A History based society organised around the West Sussex Record Office. Annual journal, meetings and newsletters. Disabled access at the Record Office but not for all meetings at other venues.

Alternative contact: Richard Martin, richard.martin@westsussex.gov.uk

85. Westreach: the Westmeston, Streat and East Chiltington Local History Group

See

[http://www.escis.org.uk/Entry/View/Westreach: Westmeston Streat and East Chiltington Local History Group/14255](http://www.escis.org.uk/Entry/View/Westreach:_Westmeston_Streat_and_East_Chiltington_Local_History_Group/14255)

Researches the local history of Westmeston, Streat and East Chiltington, and links with neighbouring similar groups.

Meets about quarterly, at Westmeston Parish Hall, Streat Rectory Barn or East Chiltington Church 10 a.m. to 12 noon on a Saturday.

No membership fee, expenses shared at end of the year.

Newsletter, *The Tittle Tatler and Historical Bystander*.

Informal archive of photographs, ephemera and photocopies of historical and recent documents, and published books. Confidential list of parishioners with interesting documents. Apply to Contact Person to view or contribute.

Contact Judy Moody-Stuart, Little Blackbrook Spatham Lane, Westmeston, East Sussex BN6 8XJ Tel: 01273 846525/ 01273 846146

Wey and Arun Canal Trust Ltd

See the website at: www.weyandarun.co.uk

In 1970 a few enthusiastic individuals formed the Wey & Arun Canal Society. More supporters were quickly gained, and in 1973 the Society was re-formed as a charitable Trust Company, the Wey & Arun Canal Trust Limited. (Registered Charity No. CC265331)

The aim of the Trust is to achieve the restoration, as a public amenity, of the navigable link between the Rivers Wey and Arun, and so recreate the direct water link between London and the South Coast. The Trust has reached agreement with landowners that restoration work could take place on over half the 23-mile total length. Already, twenty one bridges have been reconstructed, two aqueducts reconstructed, eleven locks restored, culverts rebuilt and several miles of canal bed cleared and dredged. Work has been carried out in the Bramley, Run Common, Loxwood, Billingshurst and Pulborough areas. The Trust has an agreed Conservation Policy. Its aims are to identify, restore and maintain essential features of the natural and manmade landscape affecting the waterway and to maintain and enhance the diversity of habitats of nature conservation value. The Trust is an entirely voluntary organisation, relying on the support of its members and friends, as well as the generosity of local businesses and the goodwill of local councils. The Trust is fortunate to have the services of volunteer professional engineers to design and supervise its restoration work. The work is carried out by the Trust's own work force, volunteers who meet every weekend, with the help of visiting voluntary groups on both long weekends and two-week summer camps.

Join the Trust

By becoming a member you will be supporting one of the most exciting schemes to restore a major asset for recreation and nature conservation.

Members of the Trust receive, as well as the satisfaction of being part of a worthwhile project, a quarterly magazine *Wey-South*. In addition, a monthly newsletter, [Working Party News](#) is available to volunteers on working parties.

To join the Trust, please download the Membership Application form below. Please also complete the Gift Aid section where applicable. Then post it, with your cheque or Bankers Order, to: The Membership Secretary, WACT Office, The Granary, Fritchfold Farm, Loxwood, West Sussex, RH14 0RH, UK. (e-mail: [Membership Secretary](#)).

Please make cheques payable to –
The Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd

Wivelsfield Historical Society

The Wivelsfield History Study Group have researched the history of Wivelsfield and in 1994 published their research in a book *Wivelsfield*, which was edited by Heather Warne. It was reprinted in 1995.

See www.escis.org.uk which gives the following information about WHS
To foster interest in village history and increase local knowledge.

2011 Programme.

Holds meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall. Telephone for programme details. Outside events arranged.

Flat access and adapted toilet for the disabled.

Village Hall, Eastern Road Wivelsfield, Haywards Heath, RH17 7QG

Contact: Mr Wood & Mrs Wood, Chairman & Membership Secretary, Spring Cottage Church Lane Wivelsfield, Haywards Heath, RH17 7RD tel: 01444 471242

Worthing Archaeological Society Field Unit

The society is affiliated to the SAS and its activities are regularly reported in the SAS Newsletter *Sussex Past and Present*. The website is at: <http://www.worthingarch.co.uk>

Membership

Anyone wishing to attend an excavation or event needs to be a fully paid up member of the society, which provides insurance cover when attending field work events.

No experience is necessary, and we are always happy to see new members at events and excavations! Please note that membership forms and joining fees should be supplied prior to attending any excavation.

A membership application form can be downloaded from the website, which gives further information about membership entitlements. There are also email links to committee members from the site.

Membership Secretary

Mr Ian Robertson, 33 Charles Avenue, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 7EY

Yapton and Ford Local History Group

The website is: www.yaptongardeners.co.uk

The **Yapton & Ford Local History Group** was formed in 1992 to act as a forum for people interested in the history of the two parishes.

We are keen to preserve the heritage we have in our villages so please search your attic and cupboards for any old photographs, documents and records of village life and consider donating them to our library (if you wish to keep them we will copy and return them to you). Remember, anything is useful - "today is tomorrow's history"! We meet once a month in the Club Room of Yapton village hall where a guest speaker entertains and informs about local and social history. The topics presented are varied and interesting.

There is further information at www.thebestof.co.uk on the "bestofbognorregis" page.

Where: Yapton and Ford Village Hall Club Room Yapton ,BN18 0ET

Yapton and Ford Local History Group meet on the first Monday of the month in the Club Room at Yapton and Ford Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The above information has been compiled from information available on history and related society websites; from personal enquiries by Ann Best, from the initial listing by David Brown, and with input from Brian Short. We will endeavour to update this information as regularly as possible, and welcome additions and amendments.

**Sussex Archaeological Society
July 2011**