Conference Information

By 1640, as the country began its slide towards the Civil War which effectively ended the reign of Charles I, many country house owners in Sussex and elsewhere had taken advantage of the preceding long period of stability to extend existing houses or build new ones, increasing prosperity and bringing about greater awareness of European fashions. A considerable number of these houses survive in Sussex, although many have been substantially altered and a few, such as Wiston and Firle, greatly reduced in size because they were simply too big. Some were demolished in the later 1700s and early 1800s due to the amalgamation of large estates. Halland and Michelgrove (in the parish of Clapham) were amongst these.

The themes of our conference include how and why these houses were built and paid for, the influences on their design and setting and the rules (or ordinances) used to help the big households to run smoothly and no doubt to help accommodate the costly favour of a Royal visit. The impact of alterations and changes in role will be explored by the case studies of specific houses during the afternoon.

We are also organising visits related to this theme during the summer of 2015 which will enable participants to explore and compare houses which have survived. These events will be advertised in our April newsletter and online at: http://sussexpast.co.uk/become-a-member/conferences-events. Charges and number restrictions will apply to these, so early booking is recommended.

Booking information

Advance booking is strongly recommended as we cannot guarantee there will be places available on the door. Registration on the day opens at 9.30am when you can sign in and receive your copy of the delegate handbook. The ticket price includes a light lunch and coffee and tea on arrival and in the breaks. If you have special dietary requirements or particular access needs, these can be accommodated with advance notice. There will be a bookstall on site.

Venue: Kings Church, Brooks Road, Lewes BN7 2BY.
Getting there: there is no parking on site. There is on-street parking around the building, but is not free. Lewes station with its large car park is just under 1 mile away and buses stop at the start of Brooks Road.

Further details, including directions, will be sent with confirmation of your booking.

Non-members are welcome

Please direct all conference enquiries to:
Lorna Gartside, Sussex Archaeological Society, Bull House,
92 High Street, LEWES BN7 1XH
tel: 01273 405737, email: members@sussexpast.co.uk
Conference Programme
Saturday 9 May 2015

10.00am
Welcome and Introduction
Dr Sue Berry, Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Historical Research, University of London

10.05am
The Tudor and Stuart Country House: a review of present studies
Professor Maurice Howard, Professor of History of Art, University of Sussex

10.45am
The Tudor and early Stuart country house and the landscape
Dr Paula Henderson, independent scholar

11.25am
tea/coffee

11.45am
Furnishing the Tudor and early Stuart great house
Dr Susan Bracken, independent art historian

12.25pm
Managing the country house household – ‘The early modern household and its ordinances’
Dr Alden Gregory, Curator of Historic Buildings, Historic Royal Palaces

1.05pm
lunch

2.00pm
Perceptions and expectations: preparing a Tudor house for a royal visit
Dr Caroline Adams, archivist and historian

2.40pm
Petworth House and Park, origins and early history
Tom Dommett, National Trust archaeologist, West Sussex and South Downs

3.20pm
tea/coffee

3.40pm
Bolebroke, Chiddingly and Danny: research on three Tudor country houses in Sussex
David Martin, Senior Historic Buildings Officer (retired), Archaeology South East

4.20pm
Funding the new house - Sir Thomas Sherley of Wiston House, Sussex (c1542-1612)
Dr Janet Pennington, independent historian

5.00pm
End