Sussex Archaeological Society

The Tudor and Early Stuart Country House in Sussex c1500-1640

Saturday 9 May 2015
King’s Church, Lewes

Glynde Place c1780, by James Lambert of Lewes
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Delegate handbook
Welcome to this day about the Tudor and early Stuart Country House. On behalf of the Sussex Archaeological Society we hope that you will enjoy it and maybe book a related trip. We - Sue Berry and Lorna Gartside - work as a team. Both of us are always there on the day and very happy to say hello so do look out for us.

Sue puts together the programme, finds images for the leaflet, writes the overview and sorts out the handbook to which speakers very kindly contribute their mini-bios, summaries of talks and other information. Most of our conferences take at least eighteen months to plan; we have to start early to find good, up to date speakers and ensure that they are not already committed to another event.

Lorna deals with the venue, audio, catering and bookings. Finding venues which we can afford, are not accessible only by car and have good blackout is not easy. We both look at possible new ones but many now charge so much that if we used them the fee would rise by at least another ten pounds. The conference and any related events must cover all their costs and as costs increase so too must the charge. This need to ensure that these events pay their way also means that we have to think very hard about the topics we choose and whether their appeal will be broad enough as well as of high quality.

During the last eight years, Sue has found many speakers for a wide range of topics such as castles (a half day), the Tudor and Stuart town (also a half day) and many all-day ones such as Sussex and the Romans, The Rural Landscape, Sussex and the Georgians and The Home Front; Sussex and the First World War. This year we have the contrast of two one-day events, today’s and Artists and the Sussex Landscape. We hope that, as happened last year, our events will attract a wider audience which gives us greater support and therefore makes it possible for us to continue with events of this size and frequency. The data we collect shows that the Society is not big enough to sustain these events without non-members. So please recommend these to others to help keep them going. We are also always happy to hear suggestions for topics, bearing in mind that we need between five and eight good speakers to make a full day event, depending on the topic and research that speakers have done.

We hope that you will consider coming to later conferences such as the Artists and the Sussex Landscape on November 21st 2015 for which booking has begun. Please also let any friends that you think might be interested know about it. Leaflets are available on the registration desk and do take as many as you can distribute.

Please help us learn about you and your thoughts by filling in a feedback form. If you want to receive the Society’s periodic e-mail about events please let us have your email address. All events are listed on the Society’s website www.sussexpast.co.uk and in the thrice yearly magazine mailed to members, Sussex Past and Present.

Best Wishes,
Sue and Lorna
The Tudor and Early Stuart Country House in Sussex
c1500-1640

Programme

10.00am Welcome by Conference Chair
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 & South Downs

3.20pm tea/coffee

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

4.20pm Funding the new house - Sir Thomas Sherley of Wiston House, Sussex (c.1542-1612)
Dr Janet Pennington, independent historian

4.55pm Questions and end
Speakers’ Abstracts, Biographies and Suggested Reading

Dr Sue Berry
Formerly a University Principal Lecturer in Tourism, Sue now lectures and writes, mainly about the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Her published research can be found in journals such as Tourism Management, Garden History, The Journal of the Georgian Group and Sussex Archaeological Collections. Sue published Georgian Brighton in 2005 and is currently completing another book. She has organised the programmes for the Sussex Archaeological Society’s historical conferences for the last eight years. A former Trustee of the National Trust and chair of one of that charity’s finance committees as well as a trustee of other charities, she remains interested in the charity sector and its capacity to be a very effective means of bringing well run services in a cost-effective manner to the community.

Professor Maurice Howard
Maurice Howard is Professor of Art History at the University of Sussex and the author of The Early Tudor Country House: Architecture and Politics 1490-1550 (1987), The Vyne: A Tudor House Revealed, co-written with the archaeologist Edward Wilson, (2003) and The Building of Elizabethan and Jacobean England (2007). He was Senior Specialist Advisor for the Tudor and Stuart section of the British Galleries at the V&A, which opened in 2001. He has recently been on the team of Making Art in Tudor Britain at the National Portrait Gallery, engaged in the technical examination of paintings of the 16th and early 17th centuries and resulting in exhibitions and a forthcoming major book. He was President of the Society of Antiquaries of London from 2010-14 and is currently President of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain.

Abstract
This introductory talk will explore the ways in which writing and researching about Tudor and Stuart houses have evolved in recent years. Scholars and enthusiasts have brought new ideas to the examination of all documentary evidence in public and private archives, in the history of the representation of houses large and small, in guide books and memoirs. In addition to this, the archaeology of both redundant sites and standing buildings has increased apace, thanks to new technical means of examining and recording. Yet country houses cannot be seen in isolation; they were part of a wider building enterprise by their owners which may have included works for the public good in hospitals, almshouses, schools as well as reparations to the fabric of the post-Reformation church. They were the centres of networks of influence and territorial ownership. The houses of Sussex are both a representative sample of what was happening to the country as a whole but also have a distinctive county identity and contribution to the story.

Key reading

Further reading
The main story goes like this. Still the standard outline of the major buildings and chronology is John Summerson’s classic text Architecture in Britain 1530-1830 (opening chapters), first published in the 1950s and last re-packaged in the 1990s when the Pelican History of


Maurice Howard and Edward Wilson, *The Vyne. A Tudor House Revealed* (The National Trust, 2003) looks at the fabric, archaeology and documentation of a particular Tudor house, as does Jayne Kirk on *Parham: an Elizabethan House and its Restoration*. See also the great studies of Acton Court by Kirsty Rodwell and Robert Bell, *The Charterhouse* by Philip Temple (Survey of London monograph no. 18) and *Hill Hall* by Paul Drury.

Dr Paula Henderson
Paula Henderson is an independent scholar who specializes in the architectural and garden history of Tudor and Stuart Britain. Her many publications include over fifty articles in academic journals and in collections of essays. Her book, *The Tudor House and Garden: Architecture and Landscape in the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries* (Yale, 2005), won the Berger Prize for British Art History. She is also completing a book on Tudor and Stuart London. For more information, see [www.paulahenderson.net](http://www.paulahenderson.net).

**Abstract**
Throughout the Tudor and early Stuart periods, houses became more ‘outward looking’, with views embracing the gardens and landscape, demonstrating the owner’s increasing command of his estate. Formal courts with gatehouses and lodges dominated the approach, while gardens and orchards became increasingly complex and expansive. While most of these settings have vanished, visual and literary accounts provide vivid evidence that they were the perfect architectural and natural complements to the country houses they embraced.
Further reading
(all by Paula)


‘Elysian Fields such as the poets dreamed of’: The Mughal garden in the Early Stuart mind’, The British Art Journal (Spring, 2010).

‘Tudor and Early Stuart Banqueting Houses’, The Magazine Antiques (June, 2006).


‘Location, location, location: William Cecil’s House in the Strand’ (with Jill Husselby), Architectural History (2002).


‘Secret Houses and Garden Lodges’, Apollo (July, 1997).

Dr Susan Bracken FSA
Susan obtained her PhD from the University of Sussex under the supervision of Professor Maurice Howard - Collecting and Collectors in England c.1600-c.1650.

She is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Art Scholars and a co-convenor, with Dr. Andrea Galdy and Adriana Turpin, of the research seminar ‘Collecting & Display AD100-1700’ at the Institute of Historical Research, which meets once a month in term time. She is an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College and a lecturer at the Victoria and Albert Museum on the year courses High Renaissance to Baroque: 1500-1720 and Rococo to Art Nouveau 1720-1900. Susan also lectures at Sotheby’s Institute of Art and on the MA course run in London by the Institut d’Etudes Supérieures des Arts, Paris.

Abstract
This paper will discuss the types of furnishings found in great houses of the period, using inventories as source material. The houses to be discussed will include Hardwick Hall, Hatfield House, Salisbury House (demolished) and Knole. Particular reference will also be made to those houses with early collections of Oriental objects.

Further reading


Susan’s publications include:


‘Seventeenth Century Copies after Old Masters at Ham and their Relationship to the European Court Tradition’ in *Ham House: 400 Years of Collecting and Patronage*, Yale University Press, 2013.

Joint Editor, with A.M. Galdy and A. Turpin, of *Collecting East and West*, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2013. A volume of essays from the conference of the same name.


**Dr Alden Gregory**

Alden is a Curator of Historic Buildings for Historic Royal Palaces working across all six palaces, including the Tower of London and Hampton Court. He has previously worked as a Curator for the National Trust in the South-West region, and has undertaken freelance research for English Heritage and other private clients. His research specialism is in late-medieval and Tudor architectural history with a particular interest in the ways that great houses and palaces were used. His doctoral thesis on the late-medieval architectural and social history of Knole house in Sevenoaks was completed at the University of Sussex in 2010 and was carried out in collaboration with the National Trust and the AHRC. He has also researched the archiepiscopal palace at Otford in Kent.

**Abstract**

This paper will consider household ordinances as a source for understanding the Tudor great house and its household and will reveal the broad and evocative insights that ordinances allow into the daily life of a house. It will argue that these were a ubiquitous type of document that held two principal functions. They set the rules and helped to
shape and guide household management throughout the late middle ages and into the early modern period. However, they also acted as a quasi-symbolic demonstration of the householder’s ability to run a successful household at a time when the household formed a cornerstone of social, economic and political structures. Yet while some, like Edward IV’s Liber Niger or Henry VIII’s Eltham Ordinances, are relatively well known, less attention has been given by historians to the few surviving ordinances of aristocratic, episcopal or gentry households. The paper will take as its focus a detailed set of ordinances that were compiled for Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in the 1530s or 1540s and used at his houses across London and the south-east in order to consider the purpose of ordinances and what they can tell us about day-to-day life in the period.

Reading
Anon., A Collection of Ordinances and Regulations for the Government of the Royal Household, Made in Divers Reigns. From King Edward III to King William and Queen Mary. Also Receipts in Ancient Cookery (London: 1790).


Dr Caroline Adams
Dr Caroline Adams has a BA (Hons) in history from the University of York, an MA in landscape and regional history from the University of Leeds, and a PhD from the University of Chichester on Elizabeth I’s visit to West Sussex in 1591. She is a fully qualified and registered archivist, and is a member of the Archives and Records Association. Until July 2014 she was Senior Archivist at West Sussex Record Office, and now is a freelance archivist and historian. She has written and lectured widely on local and family history, and at professional conferences, and has co-authored and edited a number of publications. She is presently researching 16th and 17th century gentry in Sussex.

Abstract
In a television programme a couple of years ago, Gryff Rhys Jones solemnly led a cavalcade of people and cars around an airfield, to demonstrate the vast retinue Queen Elizabeth took with her on progress. Nearly every summer the Queen and her court left the comparative comfort of her London palaces and embarked on a tour of her subjects’
houses, usually for five or six weeks. Out of the capital, she stayed with her hosts, using the system of purveyance to subsidise their expenses, and the visits were accompanied by feasting and entertainment. Every host, it has been said, was eaten out of house and home, and many went bankrupt. In Sussex she is supposed to have stayed in more places than there were beds.

There are several issues that arise out of this – who was typical of the hosts and their connections? How much preparation did the hosts have to make, and what was the practical side of making such a visit work? There has been discussion of unwilling hosts - the Queen was always the most important person in the house, and that theoretically she became the host whilst she was in it. Did the two parties have equal footing? How much did the progress interrupt a normal summer of such a landowner; and did it really bankrupt a would-be host?

The royal progress became a multi-functional device under Elizabeth, from making her presence felt and checking on her hosts and guests, to a royal holiday meeting new people and seeing new sights. The court was able to operate successfully ‘out of town’, and evidence shows that the progress was self-sufficient. Unlike her predecessors, Elizabeth chose to stay with lesser gentry, whom she might not have met before, and used this to confirm her position in regional society. Archival evidence of the harbingers shows which places the royal party visited and how long the preparations took.

The Queen took her Privy Council with her, and business continued as normal, with arrangements made for bringing the necessary documents with them, and supplying postal
services from wherever she was staying. By the time of Elizabeth, the long baggage train of medieval monarchs had gone, and in its place was a smart system of harbingers who worked in teams, each with a leader who was a member of the gentry and well versed in these practical arrangements. Each team was allotted an area, a certain number of houses to prepare and a definite time-frame in which to work. The practice of purveyance and the provision of tents and supplies by the royal household were developed into a smooth operation. It left the house owners to add to their efforts and supply as much entertainment as was feasible, and the contribution of the hosts dovetailed with the machinery of central administration. The management of royal tents was important and professional, and a royal official was responsible for their correct supply for each occasion and their long-term maintenance.

This talk looks at the traditional assumptions, such as the host of a royal progress being bankrupted, or the long train of goods and people following the monarch (see illustration above, p. 9), and then at the detailed evidence of the reality.

Tom Dommett
After graduating from the University of Exeter in 2009, Tom worked for the New Forest National Park, developing techniques for the use of remote sensing technology (such as 'lidar') within archaeology. Tom joined the National Trust in 2012 as the Regional Archaeologist for West Sussex and the South Downs, in addition to leading a community archaeology project investigating Petworth Park. He is currently also heading up a project examining the nationally significant archaeology at Birling Gap and the Seven Sisters.

Abstract and further reading
The Petworth Park Archaeology Project has involved over 100 volunteers in archaeological investigations of the historic parkland surrounding Petworth House, ranging from archival research to geophysical surveys and excavation. This talk will provide an overview of the archaeological and historical evidence accumulated through this project, and the new discoveries which help us tell the story of the Tudor and Stuart development of the site against the backdrop of political and religious upheaval.

http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house/our-work/projects/archaeology

At present awaits publication, but the book on Petworth tells the story of the house well. See C. Rowell, Petworth; the people and the place, National Trust 2012, which starts with Petworth and the Percy family, 1150-1632.


David Martin
David Martin was, until his recent retirement, the senior historic buildings officer at Archaeology South-East, University College London, a post he held from 1992. He has been researching historic buildings in Sussex (originally within the Rape of Hastings) since 1967. He and his wife, Barbara, have now recorded over two thousand buildings in Sussex and Kent, the majority in the Sussex High Weald. They are at present in the midst of a major synthesis of this archive of data so as to bring the results of their work through to publication. David is a past president of the Vernacular Architecture Group and of the Wealden Buildings Study Group: he is currently president of the Essex Historic Buildings Group. Email: david.martin@ucl.ac.uk
Abstract
Bolebroke, Chiddingly and Danny are three of Sussex’s little known Elizabethan ‘Great Houses’: Bolebrook is the work of an aristocratic heir apparent, Chiddingly that of the chief baron of the Court of Exchequer, whilst Danny – the smallest of the three – was built by a Courtier. Danny in Hurstpierpoint is by far the most complete, whilst Bolebroke in Hartfield is the most fragmentary. Bolebroke is one of the homes of the Sackville family and the immediate predecessor to the well-known Knole, near Sevenoaks in Kent. Here, only the gatehouse, a large and impressive service range and one outbuilding now survive, though these in themselves are very informative and give a good impression of the large size of the original house. Nothing is now known regarding Bolebroke’s Great Hall, though it must have been a very impressive space, rivalling that at Knole itself. Despite having been constructed relatively late in the reign of Elizabeth, the other two mansions were each designed with medieval-style open halls at their heart. That at Danny still survives, complete with its impressive roof (now hidden above a later flat ceiling) whilst that at Chiddingly – which was even more elaborate – stood long enough to be drawn. The illustrations of the hall give a vivid impression of the room’s original grandeur. Chiddingly had a rapid development with little forethought given to its final form, having initially been planned to a single-courtyard layout which, within a very short time, had a second, larger court added to its rear. It is doubtful whether the construction work at Chiddingly was completed in its entirety.

Further reading
Brent, Colin and Judy, Danny House, Phillimore, 2013.
Dr Janet Pennington
Janet Pennington is an independent historian with a PhD in early-modern Sussex inn and tavern history. Her MA dissertation was about Sir Thomas Sherley (c.1542-1612) and the history of Wiston House. While working as archivist at Lancing College, she also taught local history and palaeography for CCE at the University of Sussex. She undertakes house histories for owners and is an active member of the Wealden Buildings Study Group. She is a member of council for the Sussex Record Society.


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Abstract

Sir Thomas Sherley of Wiston was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1573, aged about 31. His raised social status soon had him thinking about a new stone house to replace the medieval timber-framed home of his ancestors. His income came from his leased farms, and he also had a small interest in the Sussex iron industry, but he was not a rich man. However, he
had a powerful patron at court, Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester, and in 1587 he was appointed Treasurer-at-War in the Netherlands, reckoned to be the most lucrative in the army due to the ‘perks’ available. Fraud and corruption were rife and Sherley was spending at a great rate, particularly on luxurious possessions for his newly-built house. In 1588 bailiffs came to Wiston House to remove many of these, though it did not stop him from being appointed Treasurer of the army in France in 1591. Eventually his spectacular debts led to his fall from grace in 1596 and imprisonment in 1597, and his estate was sequestrated by the Crown. However, he soon bounced back, and as Member of Parliament for Steyning made constitutional history in 1604, securing freedom of MPs from arrest except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace. He died at the age of 70 in 1612, having repaid none of his debts, which fell on the shoulders of his eldest son. This led to Wiston House and the estate leaving the Sherley family’s hands in 1622.

Further reading


The unpublished thesis (1989) can be seen in Sussex Archaeological Society’s Library, Worthing Library, Steyning Museum or obtained via Inter-Library Loan. The excerpted chapter is reproduced here at the Conference and can be purchased for £2.50 from Janet Pennington.

The Wiston Archives are at the West Sussex Record Office, Chichester - details on-line, where the two catalogues can be perused, along with many other Wiston documents. There is a collection of Wiston documents relating to Sir Thomas Sherley amongst the Cranfield Papers, part of the Sackville Collection at the Kent Record Office.


Evelyn Philip Shirley, Stemmata Shirleiana, (1873).

Other Reading

Books


Articles about houses in Sussex
SAC is the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* – and below are just a few examples of what you can find in these volumes which are held by most reference libraries in Sussex (and some outside the county) and in both record offices and the Library of the Society at Barbican House in Lewes.


Ellis, H., ‘Inventory of Goods etc, in the Manor of Cheseworth, Sedgwick, and other Parks, the Manor Place of Sheffield, and in the Forest of Worth, with the Iron-works belonging to the Lord Admiral Seymour, at the time of his attainder, taken 1549’, SAC 13 (1861).


* denotes on-line public access
Programme of Visits to Local Houses of Interest

We have arranged a number of visits over the summer to houses in Sussex with Tudor or early Stuart origins, which are designed to complement today’s talks. Travel is not included and places are limited so advance booking is essential. Please check with the registration desk on the day of the conference for availability, or contact Lorna Gartside on 01273 405737, members@sussexpast.co.uk, although note that the Membership Office will be closed from 11 - 25 May inclusive.

You can also book online at http://sussexpast.co.uk/events, subject to availability. Booking will only be confirmed on receipt of payment.

The visits are:

Danny House, Hurstpierpoint: Saturday 6 June, 2pm-5pm, £10
Parham House, near Pulborough: Tuesday 9 June, 10.30am-12.30pm, £18
Glynde Place, near Lewes: Friday 26 June, 2.30pm-4.30pm, £16
Petworth park, Petworth: Saturday 27 June, 11am-midday, £10
Firle Place, near Lewes: Tuesday 4 August, 10.30am-12.30pm, £14

The best guide to read before you visit either Firle or Glynde is the Pevsner Guide to Sussex: East with Brighton and Hove by Nicholas Antram, Yale 2013, which has good sections on both houses.

You may also like to make your own arrangements to view the following:

Knole House
The house as it stands today is a remarkably preserved and complete early Jacobean remodelling of a medieval archiepiscopal palace. From an even older manor house, it was built and extended by the Archbishops of Canterbury after 1456. It then became a royal possession during the Tudor dynasty when Henry VIII hunted here and Elizabeth I visited. From 1603, Thomas Sackville made it the aristocratic treasure house for the Sackville family, who were prominent and influential in court circles. Over more than 400 years, his descendants rebuilt and then furnished Knole in two further bursts of activity. First, at the end of the 17th century, when the 6th Earl acquired Stuart furniture and textiles from royal palaces, and again at the end of the 18th century, with the 3rd Duke’s art collection. The house is now in the care of the National Trust. For information on opening times, please see http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole/ or call 01732 462100.

Laughton Place
The Pelham family bought Laughton Place, an old fortified manor, in 1466 and in 1534 it was rebuilt by William Pelham. It remained in the single ownership of the Pelham family, who owned great estates in Sussex, until 1927. In the 15th and 16th centuries it was their chief residence and it bears the emblem that they traditionally used to mark their property - the Pelham Buckle, claimed to have been won by military prowess at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. All that now survives is the moated brick tower, which stood close to the main hall and served as both an outlook post and a set of secure private rooms. It is now owned by the Landmark Trust which opens it to the public once a year during the Heritage weekend which this year is 10–13 September. For more information, go to http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/ or call 020 7824 7180.
Laughton Place was the subject of an extensive article in volume 129 of Sussex Archaeological Collections, co-authored by John Farrant, Maurice Howard, David Rudling, John Warren and Christopher Whittick. The article is titled ‘Laughton Place: a manorial and architectural history with an account of recent restoration and excavation’. We have a few copies of this edition (not new, but in reasonable condition) for purchase from our bookstall at the conference at a very reasonable price.

Cowdray
Cowdray, east of Midhurst, was one of England’s most important early Tudor houses. In the 1520s, Sir David Owen, uncle to Henry VII, began construction of the current Cowdray House on the site of the former home Coudreye which he had acquired upon the death of his wife Mary Bohun in 1496. In 1529, Sir Owen’s son, Henry, sold the estate of Cowdray to Sir William Fitzwilliam and in 1533 Henry VIII granted a license to Fitzwilliam’s trustees to inpark 600 acres of meadow, pasture and wood and build fortifications at “Cowdry”.

Henry VIII made three visits to the house during his reign, in August 1538, July 1539 and August 1545. The house was later visited by his son Edward VI in July 1552 and by his daughter Elizabeth I in August 1591. Mary of Guise, widow of James V of Scotland stayed a night at Cowdray in October 1551. The house was partially destroyed by fire in 1793.

Visitors are able to follow an audio tour as they look around the ruins. For more information on opening times, admission prices etc, please see their website: http://www.cowdray.org.uk/ or call 01730 812423.

Hangleton Manor
Hangleton Place (or Manor) in the parish of Hangleton was the biggest of the three country houses transformed or built during the sixteenth century in the area of Sussex now within the City of Brighton and Hove. The others were Preston Place (now called Preston Manor) and Patcham Place. Hangleton was built in two stages around a courtyard, a plan typical for large houses of the early and mid-Tudor period, and some of the contemporary interior survives in the pub section of the building today. In 1601, Earl Buckhurst divided the property physically between the tenants and himself and that may explain the presence of some early seventeenth century panelling.

Built by Richard Bellingham (the son of Thomas Bellingham of Lyminster) and his wife, Mary Goring, Hangleton Place served as a country house only from the 1530s to about 1600. The development of this house probably began once the Bellingham family acquired the freehold of the estate and was largely completed before Richard died in 1552/53. Edward, Richard’s youngest son, inherited the estate and left it to Richard, his oldest son who also owned Newtimber Place a few miles away. In 1566, Richard married Mary Whalley of Scriverton in Nottinghamshire and when he died in 1592, she remarried. Between 1597 and 1599, Mary and her second husband, Barnard Whitstone, sold her life interest in Hangleton to Lord Buckhurst (a member of the wealthy and influential West family who became the Sackville-Wests of Knole) with the agreement of her sons Richard (the heir) and Edward Bellingham. The Whitstones leased the estate from Lord Buckhurst for £260 a year from 1601 but he reserved the right to occupy part of the ‘capital mansion’. The Buckhursts were building up a holding in this area, which in 1618 included land in Ovingdean, Brighton and Portsde, and, later, Benfield in Hangleton and thus a base in this area was convenient for them.
The Place became purely a farmhouse at some point in the seventeenth century, for in 1684 the lease of the 833-acre farm did not mention a right of residence for the owners, which continued to be the Wests. The Hardwick family took the tenancy of this farm and then Benfield Farm and farmed until the 1920s.

Hangleton Manor, Hangleton Valley Drive, Hove, East Sussex BN3 8AN (now a pub).

C E Clayton, ‘Hangleton and its history’, SAC 34 (1884) 167-184

© Sue Berry. The original text has the sources cited.

**Patcham Place: a hidden Tudor House**
Patcham Place in the City of Brighton and Hove is a gentleman’s country house of our period, hidden within the late C18th cladding of black mathematical tiles. A short piece about the history of this house by Sue Berry will appear in SAC 153 due out in late 2015. The print below (source: private) is of the early C19th. Refacing was not uncommon and can be seen on the south side of Danny House, for example. Patcham Place, Brighton BN1 8YD. There is no public access but you can walk around it in the park.
Sussex Archaeological Society

Established in 1846 and supported by a membership of 3000, the Sussex Archaeological Society offers a range of benefits for members. An annual publication, the Sussex Archaeological Collections, a thrice-yearly magazine, Sussex Past and Present, and a regular e-newsletter plus an active conference and events programme keep members informed about recent developments regarding the history and archaeology of the historic county of Sussex. In addition, the Society owns six historic properties and museums to which members have free entry. These are Anne of Cleves House, Lewes Castle and Barbican House Museum, all in Lewes, Fishbourne Roman Palace just outside Chichester, the Priest House at West Hoathly (near East Grinstead), Marlipins Museum in Shoreham and Michelham Priory at Upper Dicker, near Hailsham.

The Society’s extensive reference Library is based at Barbican House in Lewes, and is open to members to use whenever Barbican House is open. Non-members may also visit from Monday to Friday subject to normal opening hours. The Library contains an extensive collection of volumes on archaeology and local history, archaeological reports and national and county based journals covering archaeology and local history.

If you are not already a member, do consider joining to support us in all our activities. Membership forms are available at the registration desk, or you can join at any of our properties or online at www.sussexpast.co.uk/shop/membership

The Society has recently published a series of books to mark the creation of the South Downs National Park, in conjunction with the SDNP authority. The three books published to date are:

- The Archaeology of the South Downs National Park, by John Manley
- The Natural History of the South Downs National Park, by Robin Crane and Rendel Williams
- The Geology and Scenery of the South Downs National Park, by David Robinson

The books are available to buy from our bookstall at the conference, from the shops in all our properties and from various local bookshops in Sussex. You may also buy online from our website, www.sussexpast.co.uk/south-downs-book-series

Don’t miss our next conference on Saturday 21 November, when we will be exploring the topic Artists and the Sussex Landscape c1750-1960, with experts on Turner, Constable and Ravilious as well as thematic discussions on early interpretations of the Sussex landscape and the Bloomsbury view. Leaflets are available from the registration desk and you can visit www.sussexpast.co.uk/event/artists to book online.

Sussex Archaeological Society would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Sue Berry for her work in compiling the programme for today’s event.

We would also like to thank Lewes solicitors Adams and Remers for their generous support of the conference leaflet.
A considerable number of country houses of the later Tudor period were previously large monastic or abbey buildings. In Sussex the most obvious was probably Battle Abbey in East Sussex. The monks of Battle, a Benedictine Abbey, surrendered to the king’s officials in May 1538. Henry VIII gave the abbey and much of its land to his friend and master of the horse, Sir Anthony Browne. The church and parts of the cloister were demolished and the abbot’s lodging was adapted to serve as a country house. In 1721 Browne’s descendants sold the estate to Sir Thomas Webster. Save for the period 1857–1901, when the Duke and Duchess of Cleveland owned the property, it remained in the ownership of the Webster family until 1976 when it was acquired by the state. As in the case of many such estates, there were absentee owners, long periods of neglect and the sale of land to raise funds. Between 1810 and 1820, however, Sir Godfrey Vassall Webster repaired many of the buildings, as did the Clevelands later. Since 1922 the abbot’s lodging has been leased to a school. There has been an extensive programme of building conservation with recording and archaeological excavations by English Heritage and its forebears since the site has been in public ownership.

For further information see http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/1066-battle-of-hastings-abbey-and-battlefield/history/ which includes some drawings showing how the Abbey may have looked before 1538. It also has an excellent list of sources.