Conference Information

Our theme for the day is the way in which the country house and its setting changed in design and function between about 1840 and 1939. We will compare the grand houses of the Victorian and Edwardian periods, with their formal gardens and large staff, with the more intimate houses and gardens of the Arts and Crafts movement and subsequent developments between 1919 and 1939. The Victorians expected houses to be comfortable and efficient and so introduced technical improvements such as gas, electricity, and central heating. Their efforts to retain staff by improving working conditions also influenced design and technology. But still the grand houses had large numbers of servants, not only because of the demands of their design but also to impress visitors.

In the Weald of Sussex, where the varied soils and micro climates of the area provided an ideal setting, a group of wealthy estate purchasers developed a keen interest in new plants and funded plant hunters. Travel to find the plants and their transportation became easier and advances in science helped the ‘plantsmen’ to grow their specimens here. Some houses, such as West Dean in Sussex, were also strongly influenced by the arrival of wealthy new owners from America, who were attracted by the traditions of the lifestyle in the large country house in its last bloom and transformed such houses and their settings.

We will be organising a selection of visits related to our conference theme throughout 2017. These events will be advertised to members in our newsletters and details will also be available to everyone online at https://sussexpast.co.uk/become-a-member/conferences-events. Entry to these does not form part of your conference ticket - fees and number restrictions will apply.

Booking information

Advance booking is strongly recommended as our conferences usually sell out. Registration opens at 9.30am for you to sign in and collect your copy of the conference handbook. Your ticket includes a light lunch and coffee/tea on arrival and in the breaks. If you have special dietary requirements or particular access needs, we will do our best to accommodate these if we have advance notice.

Venue: King’s Church, Brooks Road, Lewes BN7 2BY.

Getting there: Lewes is easily accessible by road and public transport. There is no parking on site, but there is on-street parking around the building, and a long-stay car park half a mile away. Lewes station & taxi rank is just under one mile away and buses stop at the end 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 21 October 2017

10.00am
Welcome and introduction
Dr Sue Berry FSA

10.05am
The Victorian and Edwardian country house 1837-1914
Michael Hall FSA, author of *The Victorian Country House* (2009) and former architectural editor of *Country Life*

10.45am
The long weekend: the country house between the wars
Adrian Tinniswood OBE, author and Senior Fellow in History at the University of Buckingham and Visiting Fellow in Heritage and History at Bath Spa University

11.25am
tea/coffee

11.45am
The Americans and the country house
Clive Aslet, author and formerly Editor of *Country Life*

12.25pm
Technological innovations in Victorian and early Edwardian country houses
Prof Marilyn Palmer MBE, University of Leicester, co-author of *Technology in the Country House* (pub 2016)

1.05pm
lunch

2.00pm
The Victorian and Edwardian country house garden
Dr Brent Elliott, author and formerly Librarian of the Royal Horticultural Society

2.40pm
‘An orderly and regular establishment’ - domestic servants at Petworth House
Alison McCann, Archivist to Lord Egremont and the Leconfield Estate

3.20pm
tea/coffee

3.40pm
‘A house in the country’: designing Standen, a late 19th century Arts and Crafts family home in Sussex
Dr Anne Stutchbury, independent art historian

4.20pm
The Sussex plantsmen’s country houses and gardens c.1903-1936: Wakehurst Place, the Loders and their circle
Dr Paula Riddy, independent historian

5.00pm
Questions and End

Conference Booking Form

The conference fee is £50 per person (students £25) to include a conference booklet, refreshments and lunch.

Book online at https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/sunset by phone (01273 405737) or complete the form below.

Name.................................................................. (SAS member no:...........)
Address........................................................................................................................................
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Postcode:..................................................................................
Tel: (daytime)................................................................................................................................
Email:...........................................................................................................................................

If the event is over subscribed, we will add you to a waiting list and contact you if a place becomes available. If you do not supply a mobile number, we may not be able to reach you in time for you to be offered a place at short notice.

Confirmation and registration details will be sent by email. 
If you prefer confirmation by post, please include s.a.e. with your booking form.

Please book ...... ticket(s) @ £50 and/or ...... ticket(s) @ £25 (student rate*)
Cheques should be payable to Sussex Past.

*To qualify for the discounted student rate you must be on an award-bearing course at the time of the conference and supply the name of the course and the college below:

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Please advise dietary needs or special access requirements:

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Send your completed form & payment with S.A.E. if applicable to:
Lorna Gartside, Bull House, 92 High Street, LEWES BN7 1XH
tel: 01273 405737 (Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 3pm)
email: members@sussexpast.co.uk

Thank you for your support.

S. J. Allerton