Sussex Archaeological Society

Ancient to Modern: the Changing Landscape of Sussex

Saturday 28 April 2018

View of Southwick and Shoreham looking west
Artist unknown © Sussex Archaeological Society

Conference handbook
Ancient to Modern: the Changing Landscape of Sussex

Welcome and Introduction

The aim of this day is a broad overview of the changing relationship between the Sussex landscape and the people who lived here through to the early 20th century. Where possible, speakers will choose key themes for which there is still some evidence in our landscape. The emphasis will be on how new ideas resulted in significant changes in the use of our landscape. One example of this was the arrival of the Romans and the imposition of a layer of management tried and tested in Europe, and the contrast of that with the major changes after they left. Then, England had to develop a very different approach to governance and settlement and the use of the landscape that evolved over several centuries. Another example is the difference between the transformations wrought during the Georgian age and the speed at which the age of steam changed not only the way we travelled but also our towns and countryside.

We also know far more about the Victorian and Edwardian periods. Much of modern Sussex was shaped then, including the major resorts, inland new towns, the railway network and much of our basic water and sewerage infrastructure. New country houses gave employment at a time when, from the 1870s, the agricultural depression affected a lot of the county. It also saw the final rise and decline in the employment of servants. By 1914, local government and the police and a network of schools run by school boards set the scene for the development of local government. Our landscape had many more places of worship, some larger and more costly than we needed or could afford, thanks to the huge amount of church building in the resorts where a national controversy about the role of Anglo-Catholicism kept some resorts in the public eye in between the debates about why ratepayers in resorts would not pay for sewers given their reliance on their reputation for being healthy.

At the back of this handbook there is a guide to resources for the study of Sussex. There are a wide range of publications and other resources about the history of Sussex, but the last overview was the popular and still invaluable *Atlas of Sussex History* (Phillimore, 2000 and later) and it is time for another review of what we know now. The conference can only explore some of the themes but highlights the need for another publication which could cover more ground and perhaps offer greater depth. Feedback from readers on this idea on the evaluation form would be helpful please.

Dr Sue Berry has been designing conference programmes for some years now and is taking a break. Caroline Wells has planned the programme for the October conference and we are open to suggestions beyond that. Sue may be back later, but again could you let us (Sue and Lorna) know if you think the series is worth continuing and the themes that you would be interested in. One theme which is clearly well worthwhile is a review of what we now know about the long Age of the Anglo-Saxons, a period of major changes and most definitely not the Dark Ages. The Bayeux tapestry is now accepted as a splendid example of high quality needlework for which England was renowned abroad.

Many thanks from Sue and from Lorna for your support. When Sue began the idea well over a decade ago in the half day format, she and Lorna did not think they would find the
support to develop not only into all day events but also regularly sell out in advance, often twice a year. With the number of seats we need to sell to cover costs and make a small profit numbering 160, that has been support indeed. Let Lorna and Sue know your views please.

In addition to our conferences, the Society runs a programme of events for members. Most of these are listed on the Society’s website www.sussexpast.co.uk and details of all of them are in our newsletter, Sussex Past and Present, which members receive in April, August and December. While many of our events are open to non-members, we do urge you to consider joining the Society to support our work. Our current subscription rate is £40 for individual members and £58 for joint members. Application forms are available on the registration desk or you can join online at https://sussexpast.co.uk/become-a-member

Chairmanship: Casper Johnson will chair the day. His brief is to keep the speakers to time and to manage questions. For queries about the other aspects of the conference please see Lorna or Sue.

Timekeeping: we appreciate that this is a very full programme, and work hard to ensure a smooth day and a prompt ending. Our speakers are aware of the need not to overrun, and you can assist by keeping queues on the move and returning to your seat before the start of the next session. Please also make sure that all trip hazards such as bags and sticks are safely tucked away.

Speakers’ Corner and questions: at each break, speakers will take their refreshments to the left of the stage as you face it to answer any specific queries. They will all be wearing name badges to help you identify them. Speakers are aware that they will be kept to time and most do so, with a little space for questions. Audience feedback indicates that the number of questions should be kept relatively small.

Evaluation: please share your opinion on today’s conference by filling in and returning an evaluation form. If you did not receive a form with this handbook you can pick one up from the registration desk. Completed forms can be left on the desk at the end of the day or returned later (details are at the end of the form).

Dr Sue Berry and Lorna Gartside
**Ancient to Modern: The Changing Landscape of Sussex**

**Programme**

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| 10.00am | Welcome and introduction  
Casper Johnson, Team Manager - Heritage and Records Management, The Keep, East Sussex County Council |
| 10.05am | Downland flint and Wealden sand: the Stone Age landscapes of Sussex  
Dr Matt Pope FSA, Principal Research Associate in Palaeolithic Archaeology, UCL Institute of Archaeology |
| 10.45am | Landscapes of power and ritual: the impact of the first agricultural communities before the Roman invasion  
Dr Anne Teather, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, UCL Institute of Archaeology |
| 11.25am | tea/coffee |
| 11.45am | The landscape ruled by Rome: diversity and decline  
Dr John Manley, specialist in Roman studies |
| 12.25pm | Landscape and territory from Roman Reginorum to the South Saxon kingdom  
Scott Chausée, PhD student, UCL Institute of Archaeology |
| 1.05pm | lunch |
| 2.00pm | We the Better Sort: houses of the emerging parish middle class in the landscape, 1350-1500  
David Martin FSA, IHBC Wealden buildings expert and formerly Senior Historic Buildings Officer at Archaeology South-East, UCL |
| 2.40pm | ‘Bare ruined choirs’ and secular power and glory: how the early modern gentleman changed the landscape of Sussex  
Dr Caroline Adams, archivist and historian |
| 3.20pm | tea/coffee |
| 3.40pm | The impact of some Georgian and early Victorian innovations on the Sussex landscape c. 1680-1850  
Dr Sue Berry, FSA, independent historian and expert on Sussex in this period |
| 4.20pm | ‘Smoke-dried’ citizens and the Sussex countryside 1850-1939  
Brian Short, Emeritus Professor, University of Sussex |
| 5.00pm | Questions and End |
Ancient to Modern: the Changing Landscape of Sussex
Sussex Archaeological Society

Speakers’ Abstracts, Biographies and Suggested Reading

Downland flint and Wealden sand: the Stone Age landscapes of Sussex
Dr Matt Pope FSA

Sussex has a deep record of early prehistoric archaeology spanning half a million years from the early stone age hunting grounds of Boxgrove to the Neolithic flint mines of Cissbury. This period not only covers the later stages in the evolution of our species but the development of the Sussex landscape we see today. The relatively low and gentle terrain of the Weald and higher escarpment of the South Downs show little sign of the forces which shaped them through repeated cycles of cold and warm climate, but the geological record clearly shows the forces of ice and water which have dramatically reshaped the county again and again. This presentation looks closely at these changes and examines how prehistoric humans responded to them through deep time. It also considers how, with the advent of new Mesolithic and Neolithic lifeways, prehistoric peoples themselves became agents of environmental change and helped give rise to some of the county’s most distinctive landscapes.

Biographical note
Matt Pope is a Principal Research Associate at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, London. He works on early human behaviour during the Ice Age of Northern Europe and is interested in how Neanderthals and modern human populations responded to the challenges of subsistence and climate change in northern latitudes. In order to understand this remote and complex record Matt has been working with colleagues to understand the scale and scope of landscape change in southern Britain and Northern France.
This talk will examine how the social and economic changes from c. 4000 BC to the Late Iron Age immeasurably affected the Sussex landscape. The introduction of agriculture is perhaps the most pivotal change in human history, but the mechanisms that led to its adoption in Britain are very much still open to debate - in particular how far migrating communities led this change. Alongside the exploitation of domesticated animals and plants, earthen and stone monuments began to be constructed. At this period in Sussex we first see evidence for deep flint mining, and our understanding of excavated material from these mines has recently benefitted from new radiocarbon dates. These show that some of the earliest British Neolithic activity occurred in Sussex, placing this county as one of the most important for prehistoric study. During the early Bronze Age, we begin to see an increase in the archaeological record of ritual behaviour, through a greater emphasis on special items of material culture and changes in monumentality. This appears to herald a different focus on land use in farming and settlement patterns. During the Iron Age, many places that were important during the Neolithic become used again, seemingly integrating the old ways and the new. Throughout the four thousand years this talk covers, we can see this use and reuse of special places in Sussex as a reflection of the social changes that were defining the lives of prehistoric people at different times.

Biographical note
Anne undertakes research on the Neolithic of north-western Europe, focusing on the role of material culture in transitional behaviour during the Mesolithic-Neolithic and Neolithic-Bronze Age. She investigates flint mines, chalk artefacts and the character of deposition. After completing her PhD in 2008 at the University of Sheffield she has taught archaeology at the universities of Chester, Manchester and Kingston. She has extensive fieldwork experience including supervising on the Stonehenge Riverside Project (SRP) co-directed by Professor Mike Parker Pearson and excavations at the Ness of Brodgar, Orkney.
Further reading
Kenny, J. and Teather, A.M. 2016. *New insights into the Neolithic chalk drums from Folkton (North Yorkshire) and Lavant (West Sussex)*, *PAST* 83:5-6


General reading

The landscape ruled by Rome: diversity and decline
Dr John Manley

Recent studies have allowed us to assess the changing landscape of Sussex over the three and a half centuries of Roman colonial rule. We can begin to chart changes in farming practices and changes in rural dwellings during that period with much more precision. We can also imagine, with less precision, contrasting ideologies of landscape and farming by both indigenous communities and colonists. Simplistically, the Roman period seems to be one of relatively rapid investment and encouragement in farming innovation, followed by a rather longer period of stagnation and decline. The diversity offered by the Sussex landscape, coupled with the varied nature of indigenous communities and the relatively few newcomers from the continent, must have accentuated this miscellany of differing landscapes.

Biographical note
John Manley was educated at the University of Manchester where he obtained three degrees - a BA in Ancient History and Archaeology (1973), an MA in Bronze Age Italy (1980) and an MA in Social Anthropology (1986). In 2011 he was awarded a PhD by the Dept of Social Anthropology at the University of Sussex. The title of his doctoral thesis was: *The material culture of Roman colonization: anthropological approaches to archaeological interpretations*.

His career has been as a professional archaeologist, manager, and charity administrator, working in the UK since 1977. He was formerly County Archaeologist for Clwyd (1977-1993), in north-east Wales, and retired as Chief Executive of the largest archaeological society in the UK, the Sussex Archaeological Society (1993-2010). He excavated at Fishbourne Roman Palace from 1995 to 1999. John Manley has also excavated and undertaken extensive archaeological fieldwork in several other countries including Iran, Afghanistan,
Ethiopia, South Africa, Italy, Spain, France, Jordan, and the British Virgin Islands.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2000. He is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Society. He is currently a Trustee of the Sussex Archaeological Society, and a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

Publications
John Manley has written or edited 15 books on archaeology. In 2016 he edited *The Secrets of the High Woods* (published by the South Downs National Park) and he is the co-editor, along with Emeritus Professor Robin Milner-Gulland, of the successful *South Downs Series*, which deals with various aspects of the cultural heritage of the South Downs National Park.

Landscape and territory from Roman Reginorum to the South Saxon kingdom
Scott Chausée

This talk aims to provide new ideas and theories on the early medieval landscape archaeology of Sussex. My work explores how communities in the past adapted lifestyles to changing conditions of landscape. A common thread throughout this talk is how communities apprehended and organised the landscape and, by extension, themselves within it. I am asking the question: is a Kingdom of Sussex archaeologically visible at all? This research therefore analyses how territories developed and how characteristics of hierarchy were expressed. Kingship and the territoriality of kingdoms has been somewhat the preserve of historians, though vital recent work has pushed archaeology back in to the mainstream of conversation in this regard. Frequently taken for granted is the fact that kingdoms as top-level, monolithic polities existed at all, and were not a complex weave of social obligations amongst individuals at various levels in society. Additionally, these tenurial patterns prior to the creation of the hundredal and later parochial system in the Late Saxon period has never been fully understood. Still less is understood about the Norman ‘rapes’ to earlier putative sub-shire systems of territorial organisation. This talk examines the archaeological, historical, and toponymic evidence for insight into community experiences of the landscape and how these are reflected in the territorial organisation of the kingdom and later shire of Sussex.

A bastion on the walls surrounding Chichester
Image © Scott Chausée
Biographical note
Scott Chaussée is originally from Lawrence, Kansas in the United States and is currently studying towards a Ph.D. at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. His thesis is entitled “Archaeology, Community, and Territory: The Landscape Archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Sussex”. He has previously conducted a geophysical survey within the defences of the Viking-Age burh at Burpham, near Arundel. The analysis of this survey and the fort in its landscape context was the basis for his MA awarded by the University of Southampton. His archaeological geophysics fieldwork with the consultancy based at Southampton has taken him around the UK and the world, notably Morocco and the Arabian Peninsula.

Further reading


We the Better Sort: houses of the emerging parish middle class in the landscape, 1350-1500
David Martin

Buildings have always made an important contribution to our landscape. This talk will look at how the emerging middle class designed the exterior of their houses to reflect their perceived position in society.

Biographical note
David Martin, FSA IHBC was, until his recent retirement, the senior historic buildings officer at Archaeology South-East, University College London. He is a researcher and lecturer specializing in the buildings of the Weald.

David’s numerous publications, mostly written with his wife Barbara, can be seen in the two Sussex Record Offices and in the Library of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

The series produced by the Sussex Record Society includes accurate transcripts of medieval archives which help to inform us about the management of the medieval landscape of Sussex. See a full list on the Record Society’s own website.

Image © Sussex Archaeological Society

IN AN OLD HOUSE
This study by Peter and Sally Varlow published in 2017 contains some excellent images of how houses of the sort that David discusses were developed as families prospered.

Lewes along the ridge from St John’s Churchyard, by J Lambert, late 18th century.
The image shows how downland ridges can influence settlement – this ridge had two ancient churches along it: St John Sub Castro, near which this view was taken, and St Anne’s in the distance. Lewes has a Saxon ditch system, a Norman Castle and a huge Priory. Both the Castle and the Priory are now ruins. The Castle and the Priory boosted the town’s medieval economy.
Image © Sussex Archaeological Society
‘Bare ruined choirs’ and secular power and glory: how the early modern gentleman changed the landscape of Sussex
Dr Caroline Adams

Perhaps the most obvious feature of the early modern Sussex landscape, at least to 21st century eyes, is the proliferation of country houses built, rebuilt or established during this period. From Stansted and Cowdray in the west to Ashburnham and Brede Place in the east, these great houses certainly made their mark on the landscape. But the aspirations of these gentry can be seen in the landscape as well – the rise of iron and glassworks in the Weald, the changes in use from parkland to sheep pasture and coney-rearing, and new buildings in towns such as Chichester, Brighton and Lewes. They exchanged property and changed manorial tenure, built schools and alms houses, and opened up new markets for international trade. These men used the wealth provided by the dissolution of the monasteries and new opportunities at court and in government, to create local power bases where their names were known, and their influence could be used for their own benefit. Their renewed interests in their estates paved the way for modernisation of the Sussex landscape and in turn the agricultural and industrial revolutions in the centuries that followed.
Biographical note
Caroline has a B.A. (Hons) in History from the University of York, an M.A. in Landscape and Regional History from the University of Leeds, and a PhD in 16th century local history from the University of Chichester. She also has a professional archives diploma from the University of Liverpool and is a registered member of the Archives and Records Association. Until July 2014 she was Senior Archivist at West Sussex Record Office and is now a freelance archivist and historian. She written a number of journal articles, co-authored collaborative publications with the library service, and has also edited Who Are You? Family History Resources in West Sussex Record Office and Recipes from the Archives. She is currently writing a book on 16th century West Sussex and editing an Elizabethan survey of Arundel property for the Sussex Record Series.

Further reading
Cole, M.H., The Portable Queen: Elizabeth I and the politics of ceremony, Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 1999
Emery, A., Greater Medieval Houses, 3 Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006
The impact of some Georgian and early Victorian innovations on the Sussex landscape c. 1680-1850
Dr Sue Berry

This period of rapid change was sandwiched between the political and related economic instability of the greater part of the seventeenth century and the great changes to our landscape economy which took place when the mid-Victorian economy surged such as major resort development.

Sussex cannot be studied without briefly exploring general influences which helped to shape what people did. From the 1680s the national economy expanded fairly steadily, aided by a long period of political and economic stability. The government invested in the Royal Navy which regained mastery of the seas around our country and then began to patrol trade routes farther afield. Trade was boosted, aided by our first multinational companies such as the Russia and the East India Companies which expanded their activities. Our complex trade networks helped to ensure that we were not bankrupted by the many years of warfare in which we were embroiled throughout this period, because the number of people and volume of business subject to national taxation increased, smuggling (which declined) notwithstanding. We were also able to borrow at reasonably favourable terms because of the development of trade and industry. Immigrants such as the Huguenots (particularly in the 1680s because of political changes in France) brought new skills and greatly helped to raise the standards of our manufactured goods.

In Sussex the fortunes of Georgian Uppark were heftily reinforced by the Huguenot Lethieullier family’s gold and banking business in London. Profits from the East India Company’s activities gave Barwell the capital to buy Stansted and revamp the house and grounds and Henry Hotham’s substantial profits from that company helped him to develop Hothampton, now Bognor Regis. By the 1790s, before the anti-slavery movement, plantation owners in the West Indies were shifting capital in to Britain recognising that the sugar trade was in decline and we have part of the development of Royal Crescent, Byam House (a splendid Georgian villa long demolished) and Codrington House as evidence of this in Brighton. The Fullers of Brighton Park also owned plantations but sought to diversify. The number of middle class owners of slaves in England can be overlooked (see source below).

The plunder of war funded Lord Heathfield’s purchase of Heathfield Park where he built the Gibraltar Tower as a reminder of his most famous action as a general. Through marriage, the Gages of Firle (of whom General Gage who fought in the American War of Independence was a member) owned some land in America and a wealthy pro-British family moved their assets to England and owned houses in Brighton and Patching.

The wealth from being a younger son sent out to find his own living sent Thomas ‘Turk’ Pelham to Turkey as a factor or trader. His success gave him the capital to finish the transformation of Stanmer House by Nicholas Dubois. Henry, his older brother, had died without a direct heir. Other families sent their sons abroad using their networks to find placements in the East India Company and other enterprises.

As the national economy developed so the extractive industries became important. The huge redevelopment of Petworth House in the late 17th and early 18th centuries was
substantially funded by northern coalmines and the very Gothic castellated house for the Abergavenny family at Erredge in the 1780s was funded by Welsh mines.

Urban development also provided opportunities. The development of several ambitious projects in Brighton should have made a hefty fortune for Thomas Read Kemp but although the oft published claim that he was bankrupted is a myth, getting caught by the recession of the later 1820s mean that he did not do as well as he had hoped. But Brunswick Town, smaller and built faster and a well-timed sale of his other lands in Hove made the Rev Scutt a debt-free country gent, albeit on a modest scale. The slow development of much of Tunbridge Wells helped the Abergavennys to prosper.

The impact of the more complex economy and especially the trade and legal sides gave a huge boost to the British middle classes – a complex and expanding group, some of whom were wealthier than many landowners which made intermarriage a mutually satisfactory idea. The combined wealth in the landed and upper middle urban classes helps to explain the development of leisure facilities and posher houses in our towns and the seaside resorts and spas. Two other cultural influences helped resort development too – our notorious hypochondria and our reputation for being overweight. The social spaces made in most Georgian towns such as promenade gardens and the greater interest in clean streets in town centres were part of the desire to ‘take exercise’ but with others of a similar background. Brighton and our other Sussex resorts developed out of the same desire.

Today we see in most of our resorts and market towns the wonderful legacy of this period when small towns had their final moments of glory as trading and social centres before the railway concentrated population growth on some but by-passed others and helped to create competitors such as Haywards Heath as a market centre and Eastbourne as a planned resort. The refacing and new building in Chichester, Lewes, Horsham, Brighton and Hastings are especially outstanding. The assembly room in Chichester serves as a reminder of this feature of many Georgian towns. Some resorts had two. St John’s Chapel in Chichester still has its original interior, a perfect example of how many private chapels of ease in towns looked. These Anglican chapels were built by promotors who had to secure a private Act of Parliament and the goodwill of the vicar. The pew rents were supposed to pay for the investment and the incumbent's stipend.

The county's landscape was altered by the impact of developments which affected the entire country such as the development of turnpikes from the later 1600s, canals and then

Map of routes by Attree, 1809, Image © P and S Berry. Turnpikes were a key feature of the Georgian landscape.
from 1840, the railway. The turnpikes attracted local investors generally because they hoped to boost trade or rents and few made a profit. The canal and the canalisation of rivers such as the Ouse from Newhaven into the Weald, mainly by landowners and major farmers, usually failed to generate enough business to cover the costs of the engineering. Canals normally worked best where there was plenty of coal and other materials to move.

The complex geology and topography of Sussex and its many different soil types enabled the county to produce a wide range of produce. Farms increased in size and declined in number, to become more productive. The most striking change was on the South Downs, where by 1840 a significant number of farms were more than 500 acres. Most sales and re-organisations of farms were the result of the continuation of many centuries of enclosure by agreement. By the later 1700s some of the blocks of land were large and only landowners with a good credit rating could afford to borrow to buy them to merge with existing holdings. The big sheep-corn farms required fewer workers other than at harvest time. Landowners invested most heavily when grain prices were generally high, particularly towards the end of the 1700s when our population rose sharply and grain imports from abroad were disrupted by the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. Grain was exported via Newhaven to Portsmouth for the navy and the Catts of Bishopstone Tidemills played a significant role in this trade.

It was in the Weald where the passion for the Picturesque Landscape with its lakes and wooded view could best be indulged. The Downs, particularly the more open eastern downs, became unfashionable, regarded as too bare, too rounded. Most of the Georgian country house investment took place in the Weald, leaving us with the landscapes by Brown and Repton. The iron industry declined leaving inviting ponds for the new landscape parks of Sheffield Park and other Wealden country houses. At the new smaller houses such as Hammerwood and Ashdown House, the new neo-classical ‘fronts’ of the 1790s were attached to older buildings to the rear, and were sited to take in the picturesque view whilst neatly using the older buildings behind as service wings. Several old houses on the Downs such as Michelgrove and Bishopstone were demolished as surplus buildings unsuited for other uses and the farmland kept.

With what is now seen as the first truly international war raging just a few miles away, it is remarkable that the resorts of Sussex and Kent developed so much between the 1790s and 1815. The French were serious about their intention to invade and Napoleon committed huge resources to the attempt of 1805, with 130,000 men and 2240 vessels, based at Calais and Boulogne, and Sussex was believed to be his intended destination. Notwithstanding the Battle of Trafalgar, the decision was taken to build the Martello Towers from Seaford eastwards. Pitt recognised that Napoleon, who went on to win land battles, might be able to try again and some form of delaying system had to be installed. At Eastbourne the Wish Tower is a Martello Tower (closed to the public) and the Redoubt at the east end of the town was a centre for soldiers and supplies to reinforce the small garrisons in the Towers, several of which stood along Pevensey Bay. Most of the many barracks and small gun emplacements which were along the coast have long been lost but a few street names such as Barrack Lane in Brighton survive. At peak periods of threat, thousands of soldiers were stationed in the county. The officers and their relatives played an important role in the development of the resorts.

From 1815 to the mid-1820s the county continued to thrive but then it was hit by a national
recession. Many of the grand schemes in the resorts were never completed. Leisure trips are the first casualty of having less to spend. It was the length of the depression which helped to persuade many local landowners and investors in resorts to change their attitude to railways, first mooted in the mid-1820s. By the later 1830s encouragement was in the air and the first line, from Brighton to Shoreham opened with much celebration in 1840, followed by the Brighton line. But the county had to learn a salutary lesson. Not until consumer confidence returned in the mid-1840s did the system really have much impact, even on Brighton. Then, as more line opened so the companies did all they could to generate traffic in a rural county with resorts on its coastal fringe and the world of Victorian urban development along the coast began. And leisure use of places such as Ashdown Forest. And the county’s landscape began to take on a different look and that is another story.

Biographical note
Sue Berry, Cert Ed, MSc, PhD, FSA, is an independent Historian and expert on the Georgian period, especially in Sussex. Formerly a University Principal Lecturer, Tutor in Adult Education, Trustee of the National Trust and of other bodies and a Magistrate, Sue now concentrates on advocacy of the value of regional history but set within its national context. For some years she has set up the programmes for most of the conferences run by the Sussex Archaeological Society which includes finding the speakers and researching the content of the handbook and illustrations. She also lectures and publishes her research. Work by her as Sidney, Farrant and as Berry can be found in The Local Historian, Agricultural History Review, Tourism Management, Journal of Garden History and in our own Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) and the Journal of the Georgian Group. Sue has run a tourism consultancy as well as published on the development of tourism. She wrote Georgian Brighton. Copies of her articles are in The Keep’s library and on their computers’ digitised collections and in the library of the Society.

The Chain Pier, Brighton, from the west, with bathing machines. Aquatint c. 1824, engraver unknown.
Image © Sussex Archaeological Society
The Chain Pier was a Sussex landmark built in the early 1820s which became famous due to prints and the art of JMW Turner and John Constable. The later 18th century saw the start of the movement of population to the coast where most urban investment took place.
Further reading

Slavery – see the Legacy of British Slavery ownership www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs.

There are a very large number of books about this period but not about Georgian Sussex. Several excellent town studies such as Colin Brent on Georgian Lewes and Alan Green on Georgian Chichester. For the houses, up to date guide books are usually the best source. Some articles relevant to this talk by Sue and in The Keep and the SAS Library.


‘Smoke-dried’ citizens and the Sussex countryside 1850-1939
Professor Brian Short
The talk will focus on the increased movement of townspeople into the Sussex countryside and its impact on rural society, with particular reference to the Ashdown Forest area. The concept of the rural idyll, allied with improving communications and the later 19th-century agricultural depression, wrought changes which many found difficult to encompass.

Biographical note
Brian is Emeritus Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Sussex, where he has served as a Dean (1995-2000) and Head of the Department of Geography (2001-2004). His interests focus around the intersections between rural landscape and society, with particular reference to England from the 18th century onward. He is President of the Sussex Record Society, a member of the Advisory Board of Landscape History and author of more than 80 publications, including Geographies of British modernity (Blackwell 2003), England’s Landscape: the South East (Collins 2006) and The Battle of the Fields: rural community and authority in Britain during the Second World War (Boydell 2014).

Further reading (articles by Brian Short)
The Ashdown Forest dispute 1876-1882: environmental politics and custom (Sussex Record Society 1997)

‘Environmental politics, custom and personal testimony: memory and lifespace on the late Victorian Ashdown Forest, Sussex’, Journal of Historical Geography, 30 (2004), pp.470-95

‘Conservation, class and custom: Lifespace and Conflict in a nineteenth-century Forest environment’, Rural History, 10 (2) 1999, pp.127-54.

He also penned the entry for the first clerk to the Ashdown Conservation Board, William A Raper (1845-1940) in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (2004) and is currently completing A landscape history of Ashdown Forest.

There were many significant changes during the Victorian period including the arrival of the railway and the building of major new country houses on small estates – Possingworth and Wykehurst, the homes of the Huth brothers, are still standing. It was also the period of a rural land value depression from the late 1870s which made country house and garden employment important. Labour was cheap and gardens full of exotic plants flourished in the Weald, for example, at the homes of the Loder family, such as Leonardslee.
Acknowledgements

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, in addition to sourcing the images for this handbook and contributing significantly to its content.

In addition to all our speakers, we would like to thank the following:

Pat Berry, who offers invaluable help at these events.

John Bleach, now retired from employment with Sussex Archaeological Society, who runs the popular book stall.

Hannah Perkins, who helps to register everyone.

Richard Gartside, who gives quiet support to Lorna on the day, including transporting piles of paperwork.

Also our other volunteers on the registration desk, Library stall and who act as stewards, all of whom help with the smooth running of the day.

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AV and technical support provided by Chris Myatt, cpmyatt@gmail.com

Catering by Cashew Catering, www.cashewcatering.co.uk/
Sussex Archaeological Society

Established in 1846 and supported by a membership of nearly 3000, the Sussex Archaeological Society offers a range of benefits for members. Our annual publication, the Sussex Archaeological Collections, our magazine, Sussex Past and Present (published three times a year), a regular e-newsletter and 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/Museum of Sussex Archaeology, 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.

Library
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 a wide collection of volumes on archaeology and local history, archaeological reports and national and county based journals covering archaeology and local history.

Membership
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, and you can also join at any of our properties or online at https://sussexpast.co.uk/shop/membership

Support Us
The Sussex Archaeological Society is a registered charity, which relies on the generous contributions of its supporters and members to fulfil its charitable aims. There are a number of ways in which you can support the Society’s work today:

Donations – you can make a donation directly to the Society by visiting https://sussexpast.co.uk/shop/donation. You can also support the Society while you shop online by signing up to Easy Fundraising (https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) and selecting the Sussex Archaeological Society as your chosen charity. Donations by cheque can be sent to Bull House, 92 High Street, Lewes, BN7 1XH.

Legacy Giving – Some of the Society’s most committed supporters choose to become a part of its ongoing legacy by leaving a gift in their will. These contributions, however large or small, make a difference in a lasting way and are vital to the Society’s continued success. For more information on leaving a gift to the Society in your will, please contact our Fundraising Officer at fundraiser@sussexpast.co.uk or on 01273 486260.

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By supporting the Sussex Archaeological Society today, you will be helping to ensure that future generations will continue to be educated and inspired by the unique history of Sussex. Thank you for your generosity.
The South Downs National Park book series

The Society is publishing a series of books to mark the creation of the South Downs National Park, in conjunction with the SDNP authority. The original set of three (below) may be purchased for £25.00 + £5.00 p&p.

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


We are delighted to announce the publication of two further titles in the series.

Traditional Homes of the South Downs National Park, by Annabelle Hughes
Churches and Chapels of the South Downs National Park, by David Parsons and Robin Milner-Gulland

An amazing collection of traditionally-built homes, ranging in age from 250 to over 700 years old, can be found within the bounds of the South Downs National Park. This guide aims to provide the tools for any visitor to become their own ‘House Detective’. Learn how these buildings were constructed, used and altered over the centuries and explore the differences between town and countryside.

£9.50 + £2.80 p&p

Locked within their architectural biographies and furnishings lie the many strands of the development of Christianity in southern England. Entering one of these isolated churches seems like taking steps back in time. This book provides an introduction to key aspects of churches and chapels within the Park, and also contains descriptions of selected churches to guide your visits.

£9.50 + £2.80 p&p

The books are available to buy from our bookstall at the conference or from the shops in our properties. You may also buy online and find more information from our website, https://sussexpast.co.uk/south-downs-book-series.
Don’t miss our next conference!

Design and Destiny: Arts and Crafts of the Iron Age
Saturday 20 October 2018

Chaired by Caroline Wells, President of the Sussex Archaeological Society

What did Celtic art do and why decorate?
Dr Jody Joy, Senior Curator (Archaeology), Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge

Cause and effect in Iron Age brooches
Dr Sophia Adams, Research Associate, Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre, University of Glasgow

Beyond repair: investigating the use, damage and modification of Celtic art objects
Dr Helen Chittock, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford

Pattern and playfulness: playing with forms and textures in Celtic art
Dr Julia Farley, Curator of British and European Iron Age Collections, British Museum

The art of the chariot
Dr Melanie Giles, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Manchester

A pot of gold: mining ceramic data
Anna Doherty, Senior Ceramicist, Archaeology South East

Recent Iron Age finds from East and West Sussex
Edwin Wood, Sussex Finds Liaison Officer, Portable Antiquities Scheme

The craft of the Iron Age helmet: production, function and design
Dr Jaime Kaminski, Senior Lecturer, University of Brighton

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Dr John Creighton, University of Reading

Leaflets are available at the registration desk and you may also book online at https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/ironage