

PRESS REVIEW



PRESS REVIEW



Press release: Revealed – hidden history of the East Sussex 'French Connection'

Monday 7 October 2013

The 'entente-cordiale' lives on in a new exhibition which traces the historic links between East Sussex and Normandy.

The two areas have a long, shared heritage, from the Norman invasion of 1066 to the growth of cross-channel tourism over the last century.

These, and lesser known links such as the sheltering of religious refugees, piracy and smuggling, are explored in the exhibition, The French Connection, which launches at Hastings Museum on Saturday 12 October 2013.

The three-month exhibition forms part of the Arch Expo project, an EU-funded partnership between East Sussex County Council and the Département de Seine Maritime, which aims to explore and celebrate the links between the two areas.

Cllr Chris Dowling, county council lead member for community services, said: "Despite being separated by the English Channel, the histories of East Sussex and Normandy are closely entwined.

"Everyone knows about the Battle of Hastings, but through the thousand years which have since passed, the two areas have shared social, cultural and economic links, in wartime and at peace.

"This exhibition offers a fresh twist on some of the stories we are all familiar with as well as unearthing a fascinating insight into the lesser-known episodes in our history."

Exhibits on display are derived from the archives of the East Sussex Record office, the Departmental Archives of Seine Maritime and the museum collection.

The exhibition, which includes a programme of events for schools, will be officially opened by Cllr Emily Westley, Hastings Borough Council lead member for leisure and amenities.

She said: "It's very fitting we are working so closely with our French colleagues for this exhibition, which opens at the start of Hastings Week, marking the anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, which took place on October 14 1066.

"I'm really looking forward to opening the exhibition, and am sure it will prove popular. I'm especially pleased that young people have not been forgotten, with the programme for schools running in conjunction with the exhibition."

Exhibits include:

- A tooth recovered from the coffin of Gundrada, wife of William de Warenne, founder of Lewes Priory
- Exhibits highlighting the impact of the introduction to the Wealden iron industry by the introduction of the blast furnace by French workers
- Documents recording how Rye served as a refuge for French Protestants fleeing persecution in Normandy
- A smuggler's cosh and a letter of 1735 from a would-be witness having second thoughts at testifying for fear of the notorious Hawkhurst smuggling gang
- Early travel diaries, including Henry Shiffner's of Dieppe as being 'miserably poor, houses dirty and irregular with a great number of beggars' and Frances Sayer's description of the under construction Brighton Pavilion as 'a very foolish undertaking'
- Plans of bathing machines, which protected swimmers' modesty when entering the water
- Exhibits, including a film clip of the 1970s, showing the rise of Newhaven as the major ferry port as Sussex

The exhibition runs from Saturday 12 October 2013 to Sunday 19 January 2014. More information is available [online](#) or by calling Hastings Museum on 01424 451052.

Reference: 4345

[Contact the press team](#)



The French Connection

This exhibition explores the links between East Sussex and Normandy from the Middle Ages to modern times, as revealed through the archives of East Sussex Record Office and the Departmental Archives of Seine-Maritime, as well as items from the collections of Hastings Museum.

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (Interreg) and East Sussex County Council

Date: Saturday, 12 Oct 2013 - 19 Jan 2014

Where: [Hastings Museum & Art Gallery](#)

Link: [Hastings Museum & Art Gallery](#)

Contact Name: Hastings Museum & Art Gallery

Contact Address: Johns Place, Bohemia Road, Hastings, TN34 1ET

Contact Tel.: 01424 451052

Contact Email: museum@hastings.gov.uk

Categories: History, Heritage and HMAG Exhibition



You are here: Events > The French Connection

The French Connection



[add to planner](#)

Tel: +44 (0)1424 451052

- ▶ [Click here to visit website](#)
- ▶ [Click here to email](#)

Location: Bohemia Road, HASTINGS

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery
St Johns Place
Bohemia Road
HASTINGS
East Sussex
TN34 1ET

[Overview](#)

[Directions](#)

[Opening Times](#)

[Related Attractions](#)

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Library

Special Collections

The University of Sussex holds a number of internationally acclaimed archival, manuscript and rare book collections, mostly relating to twentieth-century literary, political and social history. Our special collections include the papers of Rudyard Kipling, the New Statesman Archive, a series of collections relating to the Bloomsbury Group, including the Monks House Papers (Virginia Woolf), and over 60 other manuscript collections. The Mass-Observation Archive contains the papers of the social research organisation of the 1930s and 40s and continues to collect new material in the present day. We also hold the University's own archival and administrative records.

Special Collections to open at The Keep, 19 November 2013

During Summer 2013 Special Collections, including the Mass Observation Archive, moved from the University Library to its new home at The Keep.

The Keep will be opening for research from **19 November 2013**.

A new website with access to catalogues for the combined

collections of University of Sussex, The Keep (CGI © F10 Studios Ltd 2010)

East Sussex County Record Office

and Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton & Hove as well as information on booking seats and reserving items will be available soon. Please keep checking this page for further information and links. Meanwhile, our catalogues are still available for browsing via the search box below.

The Keep is a new purpose built home for the archives and collections from the University of Sussex, East Sussex County Record Office and Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton & Hove. The building will provide state of the art storage facilities alongside spaces for research and teaching using the collections and is situated a short walk away from the University Campus. [Find out more...](#)



www.sussex.ac.uk/library/specialcollections



History Three-month event opens tomorrow

Exhibition tracing links between East Sussex and Normandy is launched

BY RICHARD GLADSTONE
richard.gladstone@jpress.co.uk
@HastingsObs

A NEW exhibition opens tomorrow (Saturday) at Hastings Museum tracing the historic links between East Sussex and Normandy in France.

The two areas have a long, shared heritage, from the Norman invasion of 1066 to the growth of cross-Channel tourism over the last century.

These, and lesser known links such as piracy, smuggling and the sheltering of religious refugees, are explored in the exhibition, *The French Connection*.

The three-month event forms part of the Arch Expo project, an EU-funded partnership between East Sussex County Council and the Département de Seine Mari-

time, which aims to explore and celebrate the links between the two areas.

Cllr Chris Dowling, county council lead member for community services, said: "Despite being separated by the English Channel, the histories of East Sussex and Normandy are closely entwined.

"Everyone knows about the Battle of Hastings, but through the 1,000 years which have since passed, the two areas have shared social, cultural and economic links, in wartime and at peace.

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"This exhibition offers a fresh twist on some of the stories we are all familiar with as well as unearthing a fascinating insight into the lesser known episodes in our history."

Exhibits on display are derived from the archives of the East Sussex Record office, the Departmental Archives of Seine Maritime and the museum collection.

The exhibition, which includes a programme of events for schools, will be officially opened by Cllr Emily Westley, Hastings Borough Council's lead member for leisure and amenities.

She said: "It's very fitting we are working so closely with our French colleagues for this exhibition, which opens at the start of Hastings Week, marking the anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, which took place on October 14, 1066.

"I'm really looking forward to opening the exhibition, and am sure it will prove popular. I'm especially pleased that young people have not been forgotten, with the programme for schools running in conjunction with the exhibition."

The exhibition runs from tomorrow to Sunday, January 19.

More information is available online at www.hmag.org.uk or by calling Hastings Museum on 01424 451052.

Exhibition on French links

THE French connection is being celebrated in an exhibition on the historic links between Sussex and Normandy.

From the Norman invasion of 1066 to the growth of cross-Channel tourism over the last century, the two areas have a long shared heritage.

Lesser-known links, such as the sheltering of religious refugees, piracy and smuggling, are explored in the exhibition, which launches at Hastings Museum tomorrow.

Councillor Chris Dowling, East Sussex member for community services, said: "Despite being separated by the English Channel, the histories of East Sussex and Normandy are closely entwined. Everyone knows about the Battle of Hastings, but through the 1,000 years which have since passed, the two areas have shared social, cultural and economic links, in wartime and at peace.

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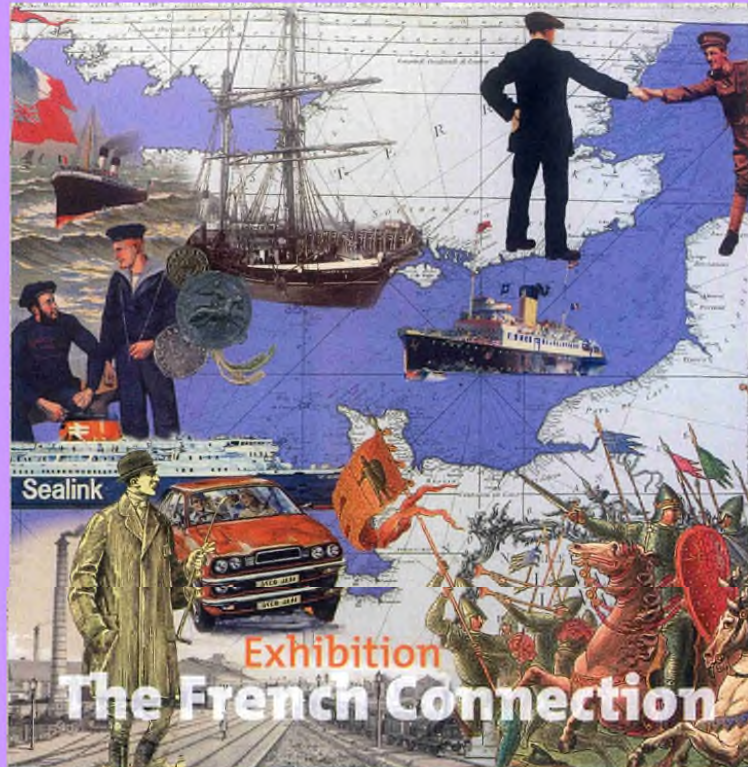
Hastings Observer 11/10/13 - P42

Argus
11/10/13 - P18

the 1066 network

From Hastings in the heart of 1066 Country since 1997

Exhibition - "The French Connection"



You are warmly invited to the Private View for the exhibition and display of

The French Connection

With just the English Channel between them, East Sussex and Normandy have long had links. The French Connection explores the connections from the Middle Ages to modern times as revealed through the archives of East Sussex Record Office and the Departmental Archives of Seine-Maritime as well as items from the collections of Hastings Museum & Art Gallery.

Le projet Arch Expo sélectionné dans le cadre du programme européen de coopération transfrontalière INTERREG IV A France (Manche) - Angleterre, cofinancé par le FEDER.

The Arch Expo project was selected under the European Cross-border Cooperation Programme INTERREG IV A France (Channel) - England, co-funded by the ERDF.



11 October 2013, 6-8pm

Pay Bar. Exhibition continues until 19 January 2014.



Hastings Museum & Art Gallery is part of Hastings Borough Council.

**HASTINGS
MUSEUM &
ART GALLERY**

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery,
Bohemia Road, Hastings TN34 1ET

01424 451152

www.hmag.org.uk



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Queen in Sussex: A host of memories at the Keep in Moulsecoomb



They say every great performance comes with a few nerves.

It's a reassuring thought for county archivist Elizabeth Hughes, who will show the Queen around The Keep archive in Moulsecoomb this afternoon.

Admitting she felt "terribly nervous", she said: "I'm trying to find a few quiet moments so I don't get people's names wrong.

"I'm obviously incredibly proud, but it's a huge responsibility. I just hope I don't run out of things to say."

The Keep will provide a home for all the archives and historical resources of East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, plus the special collections of the [University of Sussex](#). Opening to the public later this year, it will also include the library and headquarters of the Sussex Family History Group.

Today, the Queen will be shown old records of the Brighton Carnival as well as faded letters written by famous author Rudyard Kipling.

Excited schoolchildren from Moulsecoomb Primary and Brighton Aldridge Community Academy have also been invited along to meet the royal couple.

Mrs Hughes said: "We knew someone important was coming, but it was marvellous when we heard it was the Queen.

"We are so proud of the building and we want to show it off to the most important person in the country. It's a once in a lifetime experience."

The Argus, Thursday, October 31, 2013

The Argus, Thursday, October 31, 2013

www.theargus.co.uk/news

>>> **your NEWS**

Sussex set to welcome Queen for Royal visit

Today The Queen will set foot in Sussex for the first time in more than six years. Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, she will be taken on a whistle stop tour of the best Sussex has to offer. BILL GARDNER talked to those chosen to show the Queen around the county as they prepared for their big day.

THE flags are fluttering, the red carpet is ready and the scrubbed streets look fit for a Queen.

After weeks of sworn secrecy and careful planning, everything is finally set for the historic visit of Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The monarch arrives in Sussex this morning for her first visit in seven years, and hundreds of cheering onlookers are expected to welcome her.

The whistle-stop one-day tour, following a strict schedule, will start in the morning when the royal couple will arrive in Newhaven for a tour of West Quay Fisheries.

Next they will travel to YHA South Downs, a revamped youth hostel near Southease.

Then they will journey further up-river to Harvey's Brewery in Lewes for lunch

before an early afternoon tour of The Keep, the new archive in Moulscroomb.

The Queen's visit will be the first to Sussex since 2007, when the royal train pulled up at Brighton station.

The tour took in a special concert at the Theatre Royal to celebrate its 200-year anniversary before visits to the Jubilee Library, Pavilion Theatre, Brighton Dome, Brighton Racecourse, the Roundabout Children's Centre in Whitehawk and The Crew Club in Coolham Drive.

Peter Field, the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex and the Queen's representative in the county, said: "It is always a great pleasure to receive a visit from The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh."

"It is terrific for the people of East Sussex that this is happening."



C M K

The Queen opens new home for University's archive



Fiona Courage, Special Collections Manager, shows the Queen the University's Special Collections archives.



Fiona Courage shows the Queen the University's Special Collections archives, while Chris Whittick, Senior Archivist at East Sussex County Council, speaks to the Duke of Edinburgh.



Professor Maurice Howard shakes hands with the Queen, while Dr Geoffrey Mead (white shirt) looks on.

Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, officially opened the new £19m home for the University's Special Collections archive yesterday (Thursday 31 October).

The royal party visited The Keep, a new historical resource centre for the University of Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, which will open to the public next month.

Fiona Courage, Special Collections Manager, showed the Queen the [Special Collections archive](#), including examples from Mass Observation, rare book collections and some illustrations from the Rudyard Kipling collection such as the writer's own sketches for the *Just So Stories*.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh spoke with Fiona and other Sussex staff about the logistics of moving collections and asked where they had come from.

They also met children from two local schools who have been involved with an outreach programme run by the University and East Sussex Record Office (ESRO).

Fiona said: "The visit went really well. It was a true endorsement of the value of this facility and a wonderful opportunity to show visitors the building and its collections."

Other Sussex staff who met the Queen at the new facility included Dr Geoffrey Mead, a member of The Keep's user group; art historian Professor Maurice Howard; and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing.

Professor Farthing said: "The University of Sussex is proud to be a partner in creating this remarkable new resource for the region. It is a fitting home for our internationally acclaimed Special Collections. This will open up even wider access to this unique material and enhance the leading research and scholarship we sustain at Sussex for the future."

The Keep will eventually house over six miles of archives and resources dating back 900 years. It brings together under one roof the archives and collections of the University of Sussex, East Sussex Record Office and Royal Pavilion, Museums & Libraries, Brighton & Hove.

Located across the road from the University's campus at Falmer, The Keep has been built over the past year and is designed to offer state-of-the-art storage for archives.

For [more information about The Keep](#), go to the East Sussex County Council website.

Until now, the Special Collections had been housed in the University's Library, which was opened by the Queen nearly 50 years ago, in 1964.



FESRO NEWS

FESRO Officers

President
Peter Field, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex

Elected committee/trustees
Chairman: Lady Teviot
Vice-chairman: Bill Sheffield
Treasurer/Secretary: John Bapstine
Administrative Secretary: Shirley Bennett
Minutes Secretary and Newsletter Copy Editor: Diana Hansen
Vice Secretary: Sherrin Parker
Aunette Sheffield
Colin Beal

Co-opted members
Assistant Treasurer:
Membership Secretary: Sue Tompsett
Newsletter Editor: Pamela Cambas

Please direct any correspondence or membership enquiries to the appropriate office at:
The Friends of East Sussex Record Office
The Keep
Woodlands Way,
Brighton,
East Sussex BN1 9SP

Visit the Friends of East Sussex Record Office website at:
www.fesro.org
Registered charity number 294062

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Contact The Keep

The Keep opening times
Tuesday – Friday 9.00-17.00
Saturday 9.00-16.00
The Keep is closed to the public on Sunday and Monday

Post: The Keep, Woodlands Way,
Brighton, BN1 9SP
Telephone: 01273 482349
Email: help@fesro.org.uk
Website: www.fesro.org.uk
Twitter: @fesroarchivist

the keep

31 October 2013



An Historic Day

As Chairman of FESRO it was an exceptional experience to be presented to Her Majesty the Queen at the official opening of The Keep.

It is good to know that the support of the Friends, which has contributed to the safeguarding of some of the archives which might otherwise have been lost, has been recognised.

The purpose-built centre will be a pleasure to use, as always enhanced by the knowledge and helpful approach of all the staff. These are some of the qualities which have enabled The Keep to be built to such a high standard.

Mary Teviot



FESRO members and ESRO staff work the reception. Elizabeth Hughes, Ian Fildes, Wendy Mellen, Pamela Cambas, Sue Tompsett, Sally White and Lady Teviot

County Archivist's report

The Keep – We're here
We have been saying 'The Keep is coming' for a long time. Now it's here!

The Keep gets the royal seal of approval.

The years of planning and building The Keep were crowned on 31 October by the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The Keep was the first stop of the royal visit to Sussex, which had taken in Newhaven, Biddingham and Lewes. FESRO President Peter Field, as Lord Lieutenant of the County, welcomed the royal party.

Security was tight and news of the visit had to be kept under wraps until two weeks beforehand except on a 'need to know' basis. Usually for such events which include an



Our President the Lord Lieutenant introduces Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to the staff of the County Executive of ESRO while the Bishop of Chichester looks on.

official opening, we had a building to complete and we were not yet open to the public. The two weeks leading up to the event were a frenzy of activity, with contractors, staff, police and other staff working to ensure that everything looked wonderful and that the day went perfectly...

Which it did. The main, as traditional royal events, mostly held off and did not dampen enthusiasm. There was an enthusiastic crowd outside on the day to welcome the royal couple, who toured the ground floor of The Keep, meeting staff, volunteers and children from local schools as well as contractors and senior representatives of the Keep partners.



Her Majesty enjoying a job with the children

FESRO NEWS

FESRO was represented by several members of its committee, including Lady Teviot. The Queen and Prince Philip viewed a selection of archives (see cover picture) and our new 'magic screen' for viewing and manipulating maps.



Sophie Unger demonstrates the map screen

The finishing touch was the unveiling by the Queen of the opening plaque, engraved by local carver Helen Mary Skilton.



All in the perfect crowd gets a close view of Her Majesty



Viewing The Keep staff

Once the party had left, staff and guests alike were able to relax over tea and share anecdotes of a wonderful occasion.



The final farewell

The story of an epic move

The Keep was formally handed over on 17 June and we began moving in the archives on the same day. We started with our outstore at Ropemaker Park, Hastings so that we could give the Records Management Service back its space, then moved on to our Newhaven Unit, and finally The Maltings itself. The move was substantially complete by the end of September. Some archives which were identified as having mould have been transferred to The Maltings, where Mollan, Diana and their volunteers will continue the clearing process until Christmas. The Maltings staff moved over at the beginning of September.



Safety check by East Sussex Fire Service

The University of Sussex Special Collections and their staff joined us at The Keep in August. The Brighton History Centre library arrived and the archives from Brighton moved in during September and October. I will introduce the staff to you in a future Newsletter.

A huge amount of work has been done on the website, online catalogue and ordering system. From your home computer, smartphone or tablet you will be able to browse the



Out of the old and into the new

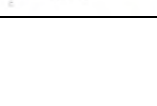
FESRO NEWS

ESRO, History Centre and Special Collections catalogues through a single portal and order documents in advance to be waiting for your arrival. Our barcoding project staff have worked wonders in making sure that all the archive containers and shelves are barcoded and that every catalogue reference is linked to a barcode. This means that we can keep track of documents as we move them around The Keep and the online ordering system will work as it should.



Below and left: New homes for the newly barcoded and requested documents

Last but not least, Wendy Walker, who played a vital role in the project, has been appointed to succeed Alan Readman in heading up West Sussex Record Office in Chichester. Her appointment was much deserved and we wish her well but wish she could have stayed a bit longer!



Right: Ask about a final farewell – Wendy Walker and Christopher Whitlock at the opening ceremony



Below and left: New homes for the newly barcoded and requested documents



Right: Ask about a final farewell – Wendy Walker and Christopher Whitlock at the opening ceremony

The French Connection at Hastings

The French Connection opened at Hastings Museum on 12 October and continues until 19 January. The exhibition, which draws on European funding, explores the links between East Sussex and Normandy from 1066 to recent times through ESRO's archives and objects from Hastings Museum, supplemented by material from our partners in Rouen, the Archives Départementales de Seine-Maritime, the links are illustrated through six themes: 1066 and Beyond; The Woaden Iron Industry; The French in Ruin; Piracy and Smuggling; Cross-Channel Tourism and Brothers in Arms. It's not often we get an opportunity to display original documents in this way and we hope the exhibition will be rewarding for Friends and the public at large.

Elizabeth Hughes



See page 14 for an image of one of the many exhibits, a letter from Percy Horton with a sketch of his brother Henry returning from the front in December 1918. Horton himself was a conscientious objector, serving 2 years hard labour in Catter Prison Edinburgh when he refused to enlist.

FESRO NEWS

FESRO: a new constitution

The present constitution of FESRO was written in 1987. Since then much has changed, among other things the country becoming more regulated and more litigious. The charitable world has been no exception to such changes, and FESRO's unincorporated status involves potential risks which would be better avoided. At the same time, the move of ESRO to The Keep suggested to the Trustees that it would be appropriate to review the constitution to accommodate what FESRO might be asked to do to support ESRO in future. The Trustees now propose to incorporate FESRO as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under the auspices of the Charity Commission. As part of this, we have looked again at the objects of the Charity to bring them up to date and to widen their scope. FESRO itself will be able to hold the assets of the Charity rather than having them vested in the names of Trustees who change from time to time. As a CIO, rather than a company limited by guarantee, we can avoid the additional administrative hurdle of compliance with the Companies Acts.

Work on the new constitution is progressing. By the next AGM we hope to be able to present the new constitution to members for approval together with the final accounts of the present charity. Two thirds of members present must approve the dissolution of the old charity and the transfer of its assets. If the revised constitution is accepted an application will be made to the Charity Commission to merge the new charity with the old. It is frustrating that membership cannot be transferred automatically to the new charity so this change will involve us writing to members with details of membership and seeking new bank standing orders. We would much prefer to have avoided this but at present we don't see a way around the problem.

It may amuse members to note that the old constitution was three pages in length and that the new one, containing much that is standard and required by the Charity Commission, will be about twenty pages in length.

Bill Sheffield

Known and unknown unknowns

It was inevitable that ESRO had to close, and close for a long time, if we were to have any hope of moving to do – a fair share of unknown unknowns. These can really be broken down into two categories – material we did not know we had, but whose presence was, if not likely, then at least foreseeable, and documents which came as a complete surprise to us. They can be typified by, but of course are not limited to, two examples.

Between 1903 and 1926, Brighton Corporation bought a good deal of land at Withdean in Piche, much of it from the Curwen family, equally famous as physicians and archaeologists. Vennell College and the Dorothy Stringer school were built on the site. Had we been asked, we would have said it was pretty likely that, among the many thousands Brighton documents stored at ESRO, we held the deeds of this land. What we did not expect was that one of the bundles contained a magnificent map by William Fogg of Lewes showing William Fogg's land in Withdean, centred on the junction of what is now London Road and Carden Avenue; it must have passed to the Corporation as part of one of the purchases, been stuffed into a deed-pocket and forgotten.

But as well as imposing order on these known unknowns, we encountered – as we were hoping to do – a fair share of unknown unknowns. These can really be broken down into two categories – material we did not know we had, but whose presence was, if not likely, then at least foreseeable, and documents which came as a complete surprise to us. They can be typified by, but of course are not limited to, two examples.

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Detail of William Paget's map of William Bar's estate at Withden in 1806; only Thomas Smeaton's property had eluded his grasp. (ESRO BV/G/2000/1)

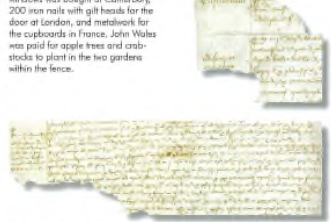
Before my time, on 9 February 1972, a group of paper draft accounts of various officers of Battle Abbey, dating between 1442 and 1521, was temporarily deposited for conservation. They were mended, put back in a shelf, entered on the location list as T201 and forgotten.

When, on 15 January 2013, we came across them, nobody could believe what we had found. The deposit was converted into a gift, allocated the reference ACC 7032, and listed in a substantial amount of detail. There is not space here to describe their contents, but

outstanding interest is the secret's account for 1517-18 which records the erection of a magnificent structure in the abbey cemetery. The building was equipped with painted glass – a case of it was bought at Faversham for 19 shillings and Henry the glazier listed 77 feet of it in the window, along with 126 feet of his own glass. He was paid for images, circles and arms of glass at 14 pence a foot, and 28 quarts of glass with letters and arms. Equipment for opening the windows was bought at Canterbury, 200 men with gilt heads for the door of London, and metalwork for the cupboards in France. John Wales was paid for apple trees and crab-apples to plant in the two gardens within the fence.

Repeat these two discoveries across the piece, and add the catalogue entries for tens of thousands of previously unlisted documents, and you will see that as well as enjoying a new physical environment for our holdings, we and the public whom we serve know more about them than ever before.

Christopher Whittick



Draft account of Dan John Hamond, abbot of Battle, for the erection of a new building in the cemetery in the years 1517-18 (ESRO ACC 7032/3/1)

Can you identify Phoebe?

In November 2012 a seven foot high, half-ton 19th century ship's figurehead was taken from Seaford Museum's Maritime Tower to be restored and repaired by the figurehead historian, Richard Hunter. The anonymous figurehead had been standing for some years stripped of her paint in a dark corner of the tower, in marked contrast to the museum's other brightly painted figureheads. The Peruvian, standing a few feet away and with a full provenance, I was allotted the task of trying to trace her history.



The missing minimal information was that the figurehead had been stored in someone's barn and wood in the Littlehampton Sea Basin. A chance contact with a Mrs. Penny Ellis of Littlehampton provided a breakthrough. Her mother, Doris Pilkington, had rescued the figurehead from Seaford Council's destructor site in Brooklyn Road in 1962. Mrs. Pilkington stored her in her barn and nicknamed her Phoebe. She lent Phoebe to the Seaford Museum in 1974 when she donated her to Seaford Museum. In 1979 when the Maritime Tower was opened the figurehead was stripped of her paint and stabilised to stop further deterioration.

Council correspondence in the museum archive (M4/Access 14 27652) reveals that Phoebe once belonged to a retired sea captain and was removed by the Council (eventually to its destructor site) during the Second World War. This correspondence established that she was not, as was the Peruvian, one of the figureheads that came from Tolmouste, Seaford residence of the Crook family (see related). A museum member recalled that Phoebe once stood in a garden on Marine Parade and a letter in the archive from a former soldier in a battery on the southeast during the war referred

to a retired sea captain living in a house called Weatherbury, which fitted the bill. Memories may be unreliable after so many years and further research revealed that the person living there at that time was a gentleman of independent means with no connection to the navy.

In view of this lead and I turned my attention to tracing her ship. At more than 4,000 ships went down along the Sussex coast between Chichester and Rye, this is a daunting task. Phoebe's size and weight restrict her to a three- or four-masted barque sailing deep waters and her style and costume with fitted jacket place her as an English figure carved between 1840-60. She does not appear to be a mythological goddess or royal personage but was more likely carved to reflect the ship's name.

Could the fact that she is clutching a large jewel of her breast be a clue? The Admunt (another name for diamond) was substantially looted after being wrecked at Seaford but her date of 1815 is too early. The Diamond, a three-masted barque, sank off Newhaven in 1869, but as the ship foundered with all hands lost it is unlikely that any part survived. Research in the Maritime Files in Seaford Museum archive (M1-7) as well as details of shipping incidents



(BMF 5309) provided no clues, while at Newhaven Museum the shipwreck map (1898-1) were interesting but inconclusive. Ship's wreckage was sold locally at Vernal's auction rooms. The only remaining Vernal auction catalogue dating from 1831-41 (ESRO M4S 6947/1/71) revealed no contenders – later catalogues would probably have been more useful. Contracting maritime museums for Phoebe's possible identity was ruled out as Richard Hunter's archive of 60,000 figurehead images covers all such collections.

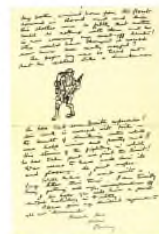
Despite a conspicuous lack of success my excursion into the world of bonques and brigandines, catastrophic storms and heroic rescue, has been fascinating. Phoebe has now returned to the Museum and looks magnificent. If Friends can provide any information Seaford Museum would be delighted to hear from them.

Diana Crook
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Bibliography:
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Volume 2

Percy Horton 1897-1970

Percy Horton was born in Brighton and received his first training of Brighton School of Art from 1912-1916. His eventual career in teaching was crowned by his appointment as Ruskian Master of Drawing at Oxford. He resigned his Sussex links resting the gamekeeper's tower at Fife for use as a studio and for holidays, and weekends. On his retirement from Oxford in 1964 he moved to Southover where he lived until his death in 1970.



An illustrated letter from Percy Horton to Lady Susan Smith depicting the physical and emotional state of Percy Horton on his return from war (ESRO M4S 6375/1/5)

He describes how:
My brother-in-law came from the front covered in mud and blood and lice. His clothes were so filthy that mother could do nothing with them and he is now wearing my castoff kit. The poor boy was so tired out that he reeled like a drunken man... War seems to have made him ill and gloomy. He just mopes.

Summer visits

Bishopstoke

On a sunny but windy day Friends assembled outside Little Hagland House at Barton, the home of James Hurdis (1710-69), Collector of Customs at Newhaven, father of James Hurdis (1763-1801), Anglican clergyman and poet. Christopher Whittick read from his meticulously researched biography of the latter, prepared for the ODNB. Hurdis was baptised and buried at Bishopstoke and spent much time there with his widowed mother and beloved sisters. His studies at the prebendal school of Chichester and Magdalen College, Oxford were subsidised by his uncle Dr Thomas Hurdis, a canon of Chichester. On leaving Oxford in 1784, he followed George Polson at Steiner House and on ordination became curate at Burslow. In 1794 he was appointed to the living of Bishopstoke and while there preached a sermon on equality attacking Tom Paine whom he had met in London, describing in a letter Paine's complexion as like the coat of a Seville orange, with eyes of 'a strange idiosyncrasy'. In 1793 he installed a printing press at Little Hagland where he printed his own works including 'The Favourite Village', a eulogy of



Professor John Blair introduces members to the architectural evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement in Bishopstoke

his birthplace and his beloved down, considered his best work. He died only days after being inducted to the living of Buckland, Bexhill and his body was returned to Bishopstoke to be buried in the vault he had enlarged to accommodate his whole family.

Philip Pople, local historian and resident of Bishopstoke drew our attention to external architectural features of the house which belonged to the Poles, probably until the

Summer visits

1870s, and listed the occupants after Hurdis' mother died in 1815. They included the Rev. Rutherford, headmaster of Westminster School (1887-1919), and suffragette, Mrs. Walter Ward (1910-19). The house accommodated refugee refugees during the Great War.

After walking round the lovely garden, members moved up to the village green near the church where Professor John Blair of The Queen's College, Oxford reviewed evidence that an early Anglo-Saxon mint had been sited at Bishopstoke, reinforced perhaps by Clodius Thomas' recent excavation of a 'high status' timber hall around a courtyard, also early Saxon in date.

Finally our three guides united for a tour of the church where Victorian photographs collected by Philip Pople were displayed. An extremely good tea in the village hall ended the visit.

Judy Brent

Pashley

The second of the three summer visits celebrated the FESRO-aided acquisition of the Pashley archive with an exclusive tour of parts of Pashley Manor as well as its lovely gardens. The gardens are open to the public, but we were privileged not only to have access to the historic house, but also to be accompanied on our tour by the owners, Mr and Mrs Sellick.

The tour of the house was led by the experienced double-act of Christopher Whittick and David Martin, with last-hand additions by Mr Sellick. David, drawing on his original report of some 30 years ago, illustrated how the original structure of the 16th-century country house, with its great hall and parlour, largely survives in the present house. A central gable was added in the early seventeenth century. Georgian expansion was followed by a second phase of Victorian renovation of the house from 1950 has revealed the beauty underlying Victorian plaster, including precious survivals of Tudor decoration. Laid out for our inspection in the late hours were highlights from the Pashley archive. Christopher described the curious history of the ownership of the Pashley manor, as family lines

Summer visits



FESRO members and our 'tour leaders' David Martin and Chris Whittick gather at Pashley

"daughters out" and inheritances assumed the family name. We were diverted by scandalous tales of multiple marriages and procreants, before Christopher brought us up to date with his involvement over thirty years with the archive and its eventual happy landing at FESRO.

Pashley's head gardener led the tour of the gardens, which have been reclaimed from rhododendron jungle, and now allow views of the island in

the small lake brought to be the site of the original medieval building. A "hot" garden, a rose garden and splendid kitchen garden are set off by sculptures. The gardens are designed to show off colour of summer, but the highlight of the year is the Wisp festival at the end of April. Tea and cakes from the cafe on the terrace rounded off this very popular visit, for which we use much indebted to Mr and Mrs Sellick.

Diana Hansen

Summer visits

Mayfield

On September 14, by kind permission of Sister Maria, members gathered in the chapel of St Leonard's School, formerly the great hall of the Archbishop's palace, "one of the most spectacular" in England according to Penrose – it being crossed by three majestic pointed arches rising from simple leaf brackets rising from busts or figures. In a richly illustrated talk, FESRO member and local

historian, Tim Conlith, examined the architectural evidence elsewhere which suggests its construction in c1310 by Archbishop Robert Winchelsey – the 'finer' 'unconsecrated' arches of Lightfoot Gate, the window tracery of St Thomas Winchelsea and the deeper work there on the Alard memorials. Using archival sources Tim then revealed that Winchelsey was not present when Edward I visited



FESRO members in the Archbishop's great hall at Mayfield

Summer visits



Work began on the conversion of the Palace into a convent after the purchase by the Duchess of Leeds in 1862 and it is probable that the figure shown contemplating the interior of the room is the architect Edward Welby Pugin, photographed by Edward Fox, 44 Market Street, Brighton (ESRO K9 29/42)

Mayfield in 1297, 1299 and 1305 – plausibly because disputes between Crown and Church were at their zenith. Indeed in 1305 a Pope, Clement V, desecrated King Edward, called Winchelsey to the papal curia in France. However, after Edward's death in 1307, his son Edward II, who detested his father, recalled

Winchelsey in 1308. Thenceupon the now unfettered archbishop employed the great architect Michael of Canterbury to build splendid towers at Wode and Hems. He may well have commissioned the ambitious reconstruction of his palace at Mayfield to advertise his renewed control of it.

Summer visits

Members then retired to St Dunston's church where, after an excellent tea, Tim sketched the history of the fabric, much of which was 'burnt by thunder' in 1389. He also posed questions relating to the apse and to irregularities in the arched and fenestration which suggested their adaptation to incorporate a road left, by which archival evidence exists. Recently revealed stonework below the floor near the north door has been variously interpreted as the base of a column or of a tomb. So a final thank you to Tim for so effectively interesting architecture and archives.

Colin Brent

Dates for your diary

See enclosed booking form for further detail

Monday 10 March and Monday 24 March 2014:
FESRO visits To The Keep. Meet at 11.00.
Welcome to The Keep – a 'behind the scenes' guided tour. We are using the opportunity to revive the tradition of a FESRO social and have included a buffet lunch as part of the event. Charge including lunch £10. Numbers limited to 20.

Monday 24 February
Horsed Place Hotel. By kind permission of the hotel manager Elizabeth Brown. Meet at 10.00.
The house is a fine example of Gothic revivalist architecture built by George Myers but with much of the detail designed by Augustus Pugin. Lord and Lady Neville commissioned the beautiful gardens from the distinguished garden designer Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe. Charge including coffee and biscuits £10. Numbers limited to 35 early booking essential.

The Keep opened on Tuesday 19 November 2013

The Keep is now open every Saturday but is closed on Monday

Opening hours
Tuesday to Friday 9.30 to 17.00
Saturday 9.30 to 16.00
Sunday and Monday Closed to the public

Acknowledgements

The editors are most grateful to the editor and picture editor of The Argus and their photographer Tony Aspin, Susan Robinson, the University of Sussex photographer and Karin Watson of the University of Sussex, for allowing us to use several of their pictures of the royal visit to The Keep.

And finally...

John Phillips, an FESRO volunteer, took this striking image of the welcome line-up





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