

Arun West Local History Group 2019



Welcome to a round-up of the Arun West Local History Group for 2019. This group has been running for over 5 years and is looked after by Liz Stanton and Sandra Lowton who have managed to provide a wide and varying programme each year. This involves both talks, discussions and visits and takes place on the last Tuesday of each Month.

The group continues to grow and at this time we have 30+ members and - on average - meetings are attended by 24 members and visits by 18. The following is a trip down memory lane for this year.

JANUARY 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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The Penfolds of Barnham

John Penfold

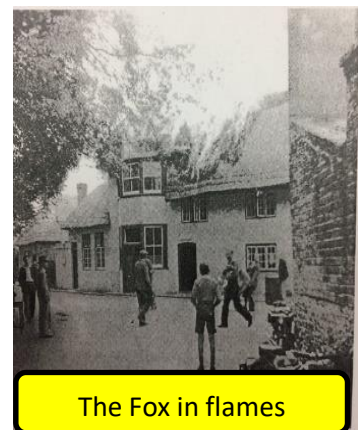


In January we were very lucky to have one of the family - John Penfold – to give us an illustrated talk about the firm of Penfolds of Arundel over its 100+ years in steam and tractor engineering. This was a follow-up to Sandra’s talk the previous year about Penfolds of Barnham.

FEBRUARY 2019						
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Tales & Ales of Felpham

Gary Purser



In February Gary entertained us with ‘Felpham Ales & Tales’ a well-researched talk about pubs, inns and ale houses. Who knew beer brewing started in Messopotamia 4000 years ago – or - that women were the Brewers in the early days? Or that Beer drinking was for energy and health as the water wasn’t fit for drinking and very little fun was had due to the weakness of the brew. The talk also covered the history of local Pubs and then went on to look at the future trends affecting our village pubs.

MARCH 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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The Civil War in Sussex

Gerry Reeves



March saw a quick run through of The Civil War and particularly how it affected our local area by **Gerry Reeves**.

The talk explained the background to the civil wars with England being bitterly divided before conflict actually started - mainly on religious grounds. Gerry outlined the actions of the three British Civil Wars 1642-1651 and then what happened in West Sussex where we escaped most of the fighting as we were comparatively isolated because of the lack of suitable roads. However, Chichester was taken by the Royalists before being recaptured by Parliamentarians in winter of 1642 after a brief siege. Arundel had also been captured by Royalists without any fighting at the start of the war but was taken by Parliamentarians soon after Chichester had

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capitulated. About the same time Aldingbourne was attacked by Parliamentarians and the Bishop's Palace ransacked and Tote Copse Castle levelled to the ground. There was a year of peace in 1643 before the flurry of activity in winter. Arundel was recaptured by Royalists but soon retaken by a large force of Parliamentarians. There were no more battles and West Sussex remained in Parliamentary hands for the rest of the war.

However, inhabitants resented what must have been regarded as an occupation force. Mass protests known as the Clubmen Movement objected to forced conscription, increased taxation and the behaviour of soldiers. They were ruthlessly suppressed. In one incident soldiers attacked Clubmen at Walberton, killing one of the leaders and capturing others.

APRIL 2019						
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The Early Days of Advertising Teresa Gess

In April **Teresa Gess** shared the interesting adverts she had found in old newspapers prompting much discussion and

reminiscences.



We wonder if this advert (right) would get past the Editors cutting room in 2019? Love the headline 'My Wife' – we certainly didn't encourage living in sin in those days!

MAY 2019						
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A visit to St Nicholas' Church Tom Little

For May, **Tom Little** organised a group visit to St Nicholas' Church, the parish church of Arundel, and to Arundel Cathedral where we enjoyed a guided tour.



We were particularly intrigued by the separation of the parish church and the Fitzalan Chapel. This church building is one of the very few church buildings that is currently divided into two worship areas, one Catholic and one Anglican, with the western side of the church building occupied by the Anglican church of St Nicholas.

Founded in 1380 by the 4th Earl of Arundel, the Fitzalan chapel has had a varied history, including damage during the Civil War in 1643 -4. A number of noted Fitzalan and Howard family members are buried in the chapel, many in tombs adorned with sculpted effigies. Most of the recently deceased Dukes of Norfolk are buried there.

The group then crossed the road and had a tour of The **Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard** which is a Roman Catholic Cathedral which was dedicated in 1873 and again has been strongly supported by the Dukes of Norfolk and Earls of Arundel who are the most

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prominent English Catholic family, and rank first (below the royal family) in the Peerage of England.

JUNE 2019						
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A walk around Felpham Village

Jane Barnes

Jane Barnes led us in June on an interesting tour of Felpham village

on a beautiful sunny day taking in the church, Blakes Cottage, other historic buildings and the seafront.



JULY 2019						
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A visit to Boxgrove Priory

Chris Forsyth & Carol Sedgwick

Eighteen members met **Chris Forsyth and Carol Sedgwick** in July at Boxgrove for a walk through the village and a talk in the Priory by guest speaker, Tim Pullen.



AUGUST – NO MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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A walk around Oving

Susan Millard

In September we returned to Oving village to meet guest speaker **Susan Millard** to resume our 2018 walk. In

2018 ten hardy historians had set off on this walk only to be subjected to monsoon conditions only experienced previously by Noah. Fortunately on that occasion we found a suitable Ark – **The Gribble Inn** and planned the return.



Sadly, even on the return the 'Oving rain' returned but it did not mar our enthusiasm and we completed the tour, and adjourned once more to **The Gribble Inn** for coffee and a chat.

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OCTOBER 2019						
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Workhouses of Yapton Gill Henry

In October **Gill Henry** talked about the history of workhouses. This was of particular interest to her as

she lives at Laburnum Cottages in Yapton which was the village workhouse – see photograph.



Laburnum Cottages
– the old Workhouse

NOVEMBER 2019						
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Saddles, Silver Queen & Skeletons in the Cupboard Sandra Lowton

Our final talk in November followed the Walling family of Aldingbourne and Eastergate through 100 years of change and lots of rural shenanigans.



From an article in Country Life by Barbara Ovstedal June 1, 1967

2.—WALLING'S HOUSE AND SHOP IN ALDINGBOURNE, SUSSEX, 1882. Two of his sons are standing in the doorway. (Getting the Silver Queen) (C) 1967, PHOTODISC.COM



Sandra walked us through the movements, marriages and businesses of the father and sons of the Walling family who were very prominent around the towns and villages and one brother even started one of the first Bus Services in the area – The Silver Queen of the title. A bus service that actually provided a service by waiting for passengers if they were a bit late at their normal stop - would help passengers get their heavy shopping into their homes and much more.

Arun West U3A History Group

Contact details:

Liz - liz_stanton@btinternet.com

Sandra Lowton - slowton@btopenworld.com

Based in Barnham Community Centre - <https://www.barnhamcommunityhall.org/>

Meetings - last Tuesday 10am – 12:00 throughout the year with a summer break in August

A Copy of the 2020 Programme is shown overleaf:

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January 28th

Pubs – Ball’s Hut Inn, Fontwell, (Teresa Gess)
- Barnham Bridge Inn and possibly The Wilkes Head, (Sandra Lowton)

February 25th

Mulberry Harbours D Day, John Hartley.

March 31st

Yapton Old Postcards, David Ruffle (Barbara Edwards)

April 28th

Smuggling & Smugglers – The what, when, why and who of the ancient art. Gary Purser

May 26th

Aldingbourne Old Village and Church (visit) - Sandra Lowton and Tom little.

June 30th

Chichester TBA, The Novium Museum, Chichester, exhibition and in-house talk - Sandra Lowton and Barbara Edwards

July 28th

Walberton (visit) back to part I, meet at Belinda’s Old Stores – Chris Forsyth

August

No meeting

September 29th

Hotham Park area of Bognor Regis (visit) - Sue Millard

October 27th

Newspapers (crime?) – Teresa Gess

November 24th

The Changing Shoreline – Gerry Reeves

More details will be communicated nearer to – or at - each meeting.

Thank You!

To all our contributors for 2020. Fancy having a go?

Why not talk to Liz or Sandra about running a session? There is lots of information and support on research and presentation – go on - get Historical and find out more about the fascinating area we live in.