BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CONTENTS

Battle and District Historical Society and Museum Trust 1999-2000

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Charity No. 292593

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BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 1998/1999

It has been a good year for the Society, membership has remained steady and quite a lot of new members joined at the first meeting. The lecture programme as ever was thoroughly entertaining and interesting and it would be invidious to select the best lecture of the season - they were all excellent.

The summer programme of visits, despite the cancellation of one, were well attended and enjoyed. The non-appearance of a weekend visit was deliberate, as support for this venture had been dwindling. However, for this season it has been re-introduced in the form of a visit to the Bayeux Tapestry among other things French. I hope no-one will boycott this visit on the strength of French opinions of our beef.

There has been a considerable reappraisal of the books in our library. They have all been done and dusted and duplicates have been made available for members to buy, all the work of the Braybrookes, to whom much thanks. Your Committee would like to establish how much use is made of the library by you, our members, with a view to improving your access if possible or, after long review, reluctantly ceasing to continue with the library. To a great extent the answer depends upon the interest members show in the library and its future.

The Committee, on your behalf, has been politically involved in that the Society was well represented at the public meeting when the tea room proposals for the Abbey were unconditionally withdrawn. There will be further public meetings on this issue and your Committee's report, largely the work of our indefatigable Secretary, has been considered seriatim by the Battle Abbey Advisory Committee and hopefully will form the basis of future recommendations.

Another project has been the Malfosse Walk. Whilst the Malfosse Incident as part of the Battle of Hastings is well documented, it is not

easy to establish the exact site. Four possible sites have been suggested and a walk, duly signposted, has been created to include all four. A booklet has also been prepared and should enable all those to form their own judgement as to where it actually took place. If you are not that interested in the historical facts it still makes a good walk. The project is another way of celebrating the Society's 50th year. Once again, our Secretary was the prime mover in this initiative.

No Society runs of its own volition. There is usually an active Committee behind all active organisations and the Battle and District Historical Society is no exception. Whilst I have already mentioned one or two by name, every member of this Committee has a job to do and they are all invariably well done. Whilst the spirit is willing the flesh sometimes weakens, especially if people have been doing the various jobs for some time. In short, I am asking members of the Society to offer their services to the Committee. You will receive a warm welcome. We are currently short of two Committee members and a Vice-Chairman. The jobs of Chairman and Vice Chairman, I can assure you, are a doddle. Everything is handed to them on a plate by the Committee. I really can recommend both positions, though only one is vacant at the moment!

This year has seen the retirement of our President, Professor Dobson. Our loss is York's gain. We have been fortunate that Professor Gillingham has agreed to take on this office. He has recently retired from the London School of Economics and is a leading expert on eleventh and twelfth century England. We hope Professor Gillingham will be able to join our meetings from time to time from his home in Brighton, even without a car.

Speaking of long service, I am delighted that John Springford has allowed his name to go forward as a Vice-President of the Society. Your Committee has already made John an Honorary Member together with his wife, Phyllis, in recognition of the many tasks they have jointly undertaken on the Society's behalf. Our grateful thanks John and Phyliss.
John Springford is also in our debt for leading so ably our research

group. Subjects covered have ranged from the Deans of Battle to Battle families of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to inns and stage coaches to medicine and dentistry to Battle Barracks and the military and even to the workhouse. Any-one who would like to help our the Research Group is very welcome, particularly if they come with specialist knowledge of some aspects.

It only remains for me to thank all members for their support in the past year and their continued help and attendance and enjoyment in the year to come.

Colin Eldridge

MUSEUM TRUST REPORT

The past year was a particularly difficult year for the museum. But the problems that arose were dealt with energetically by the Management Committee and Custodians and the museum remained open throughout the summer season with only a few days of closure.

The problems confronted were: a reduction in the number of volunteer custodians, a drop in visitor numbers and an increased work load for the Committee, dealing with the demands of administering new official rules and regulations.

Although at one point closure of the museum seemed the most likely option, the more optimistic members of the Committee voted to continue and explore all avenues to attract more volunteer members, visitors, funding and a possible new site for the museum. Historical Society members were, in particular, suggested as a natural pool for volunteers. **So if anyone can offer a half day a week or month to help keep the museum open we would like to hear from you.**

There were a number of changes to the Committee in 1999. John Hill, Bob Myers and John Downes resigned and are thanked for their sterling work over the years. Chairman Derek Akers stepped down to

take on the role of Treasurer and Anne Ainsley returned to the Committee as Chairman Curator. The role of Secretary was split with Anne Luke as Minuting Secretary and Joyce Mugridge rejoining the Committee as Roster Secretary. The Historical Society Representative Maureen Millar resigned and her place was taken by David Sawyer, who is also the Archivist.

As a Museum and Galleries Commission registered museum with registered charity status, Battle Museum has brought the educational role of the museum much to the forefront during 1999. Members of the Committee were involved in workshops and seminars organised by the Rother Museum Service to develop a five year forward plan (including a three year action plan). On the more social level, this included taking a group of custodians from the five museums in the Rother District to visit two similar small museums (Steyning and Ditchling) to compare common problems and solutions. These activities are to continue in 2000 with a visit to the new Rye Museum and a talk by Jenny Fordham, Education Officer of English Heritage.

The most pressing problem facing the Museum is to find new premises. The present premises are too hidden away and do not meet the needs of the disability access laws. The Almonry garage site is being considered but this will depend on final costs and the raising of funds. In the meantime, the lease of the Memorial Hall has been extended to four years with one year's notice. A stair lift is being installed in the Memorial Hall which will help short-term to meet various disability requirements but in 2004, **two** people will be required by law to be on duty in a first floor public place, which will make our efforts to recruit custodians twice as difficult!

All in all, a challenging but successful year with an even more challenging year ahead.

Anne Ainsley

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Since Bill Woodgate retired from his role as the Society's Librarian it has not been possible to continue to open the library regularly on a Friday morning. His reports indicated that his efforts were not rewarded by the attendance of library users.

This lack of use may have been due to the inconvenience of attending during a two hour slot or alternatively that there is no demand. In an attempt to test these views, arrangements have been made, with the kind co-operation of the Museum Custodians, to allow members to use the library during Museum opening hours during 2000.

Inevitably, there needs to be some formality in this arrangement and so the rules to be followed are:-

1. Members will need to show their Membership Card to the Custodian in order to identify themselves and gain admittance.

2. Members should enter their attendance, giving the information required, in the Library Attendance Register held by the Custodian.

3. The use of the library is for study and reference only. If books are required for borrowing this should be arranged directly with the Society's Librarian. The Custodians will not permit books to be removed from the library.

The library continues to be open from seven o'clock on Society winter evening meetings.

During the summer, an audit of the library's contents was made during which the physical contents were compared with existing records. It is the Librarian's opinion that a demonstrable loss of some forty books has occurred. There will be many reasons for this apparent loss but a simple explanation could be that members have over the years borrowed them and simply forgotten the fact. We are therefore asking

members to cast an eye over their bookshelves to check if there are any foreigners lurking there.

Remember there are no late return fines and the Librarians will be delighted to see the wanderers return.

Clifford and Diane Braybrooke, Librarians
Contact telephone number (01424) 775632

EDITOR'S NOTE

Once again, it is my pleasure to bring to the membership this year's Journal. It would not have been possible without the help of the many contributors, and I would like to thank them for all their help in producing this document, which contains summaries of all the lectures given to the Society during the last twelve months.

The lecture programme has been very entertaining as well as extremely informative, which I hope is reflected in the Journal. As ever, responsibility for the facts and opinions contained herein rest entirely with the author.

Dawn Elliott, Editor

ANCESTORS

Mrs Judith Kinnison-Bourke 15 January 1999

The assembled gathering were much surprised and amused when Mrs Kinnison-Bourke appeared before them in full Edwardian dress, to introduce her lost ancestor "Aunt Mary Ann". She then proceeded to pose the question as to how more could be found out about this Aunt, having only a photograph to go on.

She explained that the process does not start with this mysterious unknown ancestor as one might think, but at a known point, i.e. yourself and your family. Next, ask all living relatives both near and

far what information they can impart about the family. During this process take notes of names and addresses, relationships, stories, legends, and any details regarding certificates of birth, marriage or death. Evidently these days, even if adopted, it is possible to find out who your true mother, and perhaps father were.

Obtaining the correct names of all those being investigated, is very important. Any unusual surnames or Christian names, can be an absolute bonus to anyone tracing their relatives. Also at this stage, some additional certificates may need obtaining. Hopefully, you may be able to make a good start by taking a trip to London. The place to visit is what is now called "The Family Record Centre" at Myddleton Place, Islington. Under this one roof can be found the Indexes only, of births, marriages and deaths, since July 1837 up to the present. Each year consisting of four ledgers per surname, one for each quarter. Also available are census returns at ten yearly intervals, from 1841 to 1891; these are released into the public domain following closure for one hundred years. Therefore, the 1901 census will be released hopefully in the year 2002 or 2003.

Another source available to researchers at the centre, is the Mormon Index, more commonly known as the IGI (International Genealogical Index). This index consists of births and marriages (but not deaths) transcribed from parish registers, up to the year 1881. These less than complete records can go back to the sixteenth century, but locally in Sussex, only about 65% of parishes have been included in the Index. The IGI and limited census returns can usually be found in main public libraries, this local source is very often more convenient, and much cheaper than the trip to London. Also birth, marriage and death certificates can be obtained from local registrars, providing the registration district is known. For marriage certificates the name of the church will be required, especially for large towns or cities with multiple places of worship. Assistance with your researches and access to information, can be obtained from local "Family History Societies" of which there are a number in Sussex. These societies can be found throughout Britain, and in some overseas countries.

After describing the basic tools of family history research, Mrs Kinnison-Bourke proceeded to illustrate their use by detailing some of her own experiences while tracing a branch of her family, in which the photograph of Aunt Mary Ann was the catalyst. Shortly after she started researching her grandfather Edward William KNOWLTON, it became apparent that his birth certificate could not be found. Therefore she proceeded to ask her family more questions about him, but received very little help. Memory loss amongst her relatives, and evasive answers were the only result of her enquiries.

As the direct approach was getting nowhere, she decided to try an outflanking movement via a great aunt who had lived on the Isle of Wight. Luckily this aunt had left a will, which she managed to locate at Somerset House, London (wills are now kept at the Probate Registry of the Family Division, High Holborn, London). A codicil to the will referred to a bequest her great aunt made to her relations. Following enquiries at the Ventnor Cemetery on the Isle of Wight, and a subsequent visit, the grave of her great aunt was found. The memorial inscription (MI) also recorded the burial of an Edward William SANKEY and a Mary Ann SANKEY. Could this be her grandfather and great grandmother? But why the different surname? After obtaining Edward William SANKEY's birth certificate, it revealed that his mother's name was KNOWLTON. Strangely, Mrs Kinniston-Bourke's mother had the same maiden name. Subsequent investigations proved this to be her grandfather, Edward William KNOWLTON alias SANKEY. But why had he changed his surname along with other family members? Had a family skeleton been found?

The subject of her families reticence, was eventually resolved to the father of Edward William KNOWLTON, alias SANKEY. His name was Jonah SANKEY (her great-grandfather), who had died at Ormskirk, Lancashire in 1918. Try as she could, nothing could be found about Jonah, other than the family had once recorded his name as John KNOWLTON on a marriage certificate. They had also endowed him with several bogus job descriptions. Jonah SANKEY had evidently come from a family of publicans, but no adverse publicity was found

in local newspapers, court records, or calendar of prisoners. Even to this day, she has failed to find out the mystery, but plans to continue the search in national newspapers at the British Museum Newspaper Library, Colindale, London NW9. Whatever the secret, the result was that the family moved to the anonymity of London.

Further research revealed that Aunt Mary Ann KNOWLTON's ancestors, had, in the past, been gamekeepers in Huntingdonshire, Essex and Bedfordshire, and whose main claim to fame was the invention of the dog biscuit. Mrs Kinneston-Bourke wound up her talk with a warning to those present, that taking up family history research could become an infectious addiction, but also very enjoyable and rewarding. Uncovering one clue after another is very much like being a family detective. Should you successfully link up all your ancestors, the final results can be deposited with The Society of Genealogists in London, County Record Offices, Libraries, or Local History and Family History Societies.

Exchanges of information between individuals can prove very helpful and enlightening. To this end there are a number of directories listing peoples interests and lines of research, covering thousands of families. Using these directories can link you with relations you never ever thought existed, be they perhaps somewhat distantly related. Some, perhaps living in other parts of Britain, and lands far away.

Following Mrs Kinnison-Bourke's lecture, she then answered a variety of questions from the floor, covering various facets of family history research. Mrs Judith Kinnison-Bourke is a genealogist, tutor and lecturer undertaking research in East Sussex and London.

Ken Alderton

EXCAVATIONS AT 1 POULTRY, LONDON

Peter Rowsome 24 January 1999

Mr Rowsome started his lecture by saying that the excavations were

the largest carried out in the city of London in modern times. The site was situated at Bank Underground Station, at the corner of Cheapside, Poultry and Queen Victoria Street. There had been much controversy and many public meetings before planning permission was gained to redevelop the site as it meant the destruction of many fine Victorian buildings. One of the most famous was Mappin & Webbs Jewellers which had survived the blitz intact and had been built by John Belcher and Son in 1873. However, as was to become evident during the lecture, the city is always and always will be, a continuing site for redevelopment and modernisation.

With the demolition of the Victorian buildings came the opportunity for excavating the site. He was delighted that archaeological excavations excited such great public interest because this exerted pressure upon developers to do the right thing and contract an archaeologist at the planning stage. The first item on the agenda was to assess the site and to do this we dug a series of shafts from the basement floors of the Victorian buildings. The shafts, because of their situation in the Walbrook valley, were extremely deep and in some cases over 7 metres of stratified deposits had to be dug through and shored up.

Mr Rowsome discussed some of the important finds in the city in recent times such as the temple of Mithras by Professor Grimes in 1954. The temple had stood next to the Walbrook stream and this had proved to be an excellent area for votive offerings to be found. He explained that, by using modern techniques at the Poultry excavation, they would be able to enhance the archives and our understanding of finds from excavations that were undertaken some years ago.

The Walbrook bisected the Roman town and influenced the way the town was planned and developed. Because the excavation was in the Walbrook valley, it was extremely damp and many oak timbers were very well preserved. Many of the early Roman town buildings were built entirely of wood with commonly a roof of thatch.

A brief outline of the founding of London was discussed with the point that the Romans possibly favoured the site because it was not a centre for one particular tribe and therefore a neutral zone. Also the Thames river was easily crossed at this point. The site expanded rapidly, and at Poultry the main east/west street was set out with military precision and side streets were formed in a few years. The area was built up by forming revetments and terraces, and slides were shown of some original turf deposits. The Romans probably used a mixture of military and forced labour to build the terraces and roads, which were made from compacted earth and gravel - not stone. The width of the main road measured some 9 metres and the side road about half this width. The roads showed evidence of a slight camber and all roads were equipped with a drain to one side which was made from oak planks. A lot of care had gone into making the area well drained, and although the houses were very tightly packed together, some had been provided with drainage channels between properties. Within the houses, rooms had been divided by the use of wattle and drain partitions. Some of the houses were quite substantial, having an upper storey.

The site had yielded large amounts of pottery which was expected but also some environmental evidence, most of it microscopic materials such as seeds and pollens. There were, however, some unusual finds such as pine cones from the stone pine - a native of Italy. The use of the pine cones remains conjectural either for their aromatic fragrance or even as a cooking aid, possibly even a religious ceremony.

Other finds were described and slides shown of beautiful personal ornaments. A pair of brooches held together by a small chain (not found) with delicate enamelling in beautiful colours. A brooch almost comic with a portrayal of three men in a boat possibly originating from Germany. Over 900 coins were found, most of them in excellent condition and some described as near perfect, perhaps they had been thrown into the stream as votive offerings. Also, a balance for weighing gold had been found which was an unusual piece and dated from the first century AD.

There had obviously been a large mill and bakery near to Poultry as over 1,200 millstones had been found. Some had been used in a donkey mill, whilst others were the hand quern variety.

Mr Rowsome described how recycling is not as modern as we think. In the first century AD barrels of goods were being shipped into the port and, after being emptied of their contents, re-used as mini reservoirs by householders. Many of the barrels were preserved and had interesting manufacturing, shipping and what could be custom marks still imprinted on the surfaces.

Mr Rowsome concluded his lecture by showing an artist's impression of Roman London at the end of the first century AD, adding that he felt that there were too many red tiled roofs and that most buildings would still have thatch. However, London was now a thriving city with an amphitheatre, forum, industrial area, temples and a large variety of businesses and houses, with Poultry being the gateway to the west part of the city. However, a disaster in the shape of fire overtook the city in AD 125 and at the excavation this is shown as a red/orange deposit which represents the debris from the burnt buildings.

As most of the buildings were timber nearly everything was destroyed and up until now, the traditional view was that the city suffered an economic depression. At Poultry it was found that most buildings were rebuilt on the same property layer as before. Some, indeed, could be seen as a continuing evolution of how the town was laid out so that stone and new buildings were built at the back of existing earlier buildings. Some of the stone buildings were extremely substantial and incorporated fine mosaics, hypercausts and painted plaster walls. The city, then as now, redeveloped modernised and continued to grow.

Julie Ede

TRADE ROUTES TO THE WEALD - FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO THE PRESENT

Mr John Elderton 12 February 1999

The lecture was illustrated by slides, many of which were of particular trade routes, difficult to transfer to the written page. Of necessity, therefore, I have picked out the more interesting anecdotes and snippets of information with which Mr Elderton flavoured his story.

His basic point was that trade developed from manufacturing and agricultural activities and the products of these endeavours; the need to move live animals from one part of the country to the other or to transport wool from the sheep-rearing regions to those areas where prices were best. The movement of goods created the merchant and the growth of market towns; drover and other roads opened up a rural economy to itinerant traders and later became the nucleus of the road network which enabled consumer goods to reach an increasingly urban population.

Many of the early roads were developed for specific purposes and the North and South Downs were traversed by a whole series of prehistoric tracks. Later, roads were needed to move iron ore; quarried stone for building (houses or Stonehenge!) and, occasionally, for more esoteric purposes, as for example, the Corpse trail in Swaledale which carried coffins from remote areas to the Church. Some of the roads were, as with the Roman ones, used not only for goods but also the rapid deployment of the military. The Romans developed the iron industry and Mr Elderton speculated that a road ran along the ridge from Wadhurst to Newenden Bridge specifically to transport iron ore to a dock for export by boat to the continent.

Farmers grew corn and needed a power source to grind it, hence the track to the wind or water mill. Others bred cattle and sheep which required to be fattened away from the fields in which they were born and so developed the store trade, centred in markets like Haywards Heath and Ashford. Cattle needed to be moved and hence arrived the

drover who walked cattle vast miles along green (i.e. grass) roads. The drovers became men of substance and, in later years were obliged to be licensed, over thirty years of age and householders. Substantial sums of money were held and this created the need for banks, one of which was titled the Black Ox Bank. Welsh drovers bought cattle on trust and repaid the farmer on return. Some of their journeys were dramatic...9000 cattle a year swimming the Menai Straits from Anglesey.

The animals moved slowly at 2 miles per hour and stayed overnight in fields known as Halfpenny fields as a reflection of the coin paid for each beast. Technology in the form of refrigeration killed the drovers, although many of their roads were later metalled and are in use to this day.

It was not just cattle that moved along the grassy tracks. In the eighteenth century about 150,000 turkeys a year were walked from Norfolk to London. The drovers ingeniously fitted them with a primitive form of shoe by sending the birds through liquid tar and then sawdust. This, apparently worked well!

Still on the animal theme, a trade peculiar to the south-east was the rearing of pigs and pannage i.e. the movement of the pig from the forests (where they ate acorns) to the lord's estate (where he was entitled to one in ten). The forest clearing was known as a DEN (hence Tenterden); the TENTER prefix relating to Thanet (thus, literally the swine pasture of the Thanet people). Roads linked the dens to the lord's demesne and tended to run on a north-east south-west axis.

In the fourteenth century the population was essentially agrarian and there were many small towns prefixed by the word MARKET (Market Harborough) but alternatively the word CHIPPING which means the same thing (Chipping Camden). In the south-east many of the market towns were heavily involved in the wool trade, notably in this area, Biddenden which possessed its own Cloth Hall and also premises in which the wool was processed. As an aside, during the Napoleonic

war, an Act of 1812 proposed a canal to run from Yalding, across the Weald to Appledore. Its purpose was to transport wool, agricultural produce, timber and munitions direct to the south coast without the open sea exposure. It was never started and so the south-east lost a unique waterway.

In the early days of roads, goods were moved by pack ponies, known as jaggers who could carry 3 cwt or more in panniers equally balanced astride. Later came wagons which were capable of carrying loads of 3-6 tons, and then, the canals where boats could easily shift 25 tons and some even 80, more than present day juggernauts.

Later yet, came the railway and this permitted fast movement and much heavier loads. It also produced the milk train which overnight killed the trade of moving huge numbers of cows into the centre of London to provide fresh milk. The cows produced milk but also huge quantities of manure and this was another trade - the movement of manure from London to the countryside, most notably the Rodings area of Essex. Trade routes therefore are constantly adapting as a response to changing life patterns. The latest, in the south-east is the Channel Tunnel and the new rail link to London. What next?

David Sawyer

LETTERS, CURSES AND THE LANDED GENTRY IN ROMAN SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

Dr Sam N Moorhead 26 February 1999

Dr Sam Moorhead of the British Museum began his talk by explaining that the Romano-British Gallery is only 18 months old and that it shows a wealth of new material which gives a whole new concept of Roman Britain. His talk was about literacy in every form, some on stone, some on metal and some on organic material such as wood, and it gave a great insight into life in this country during the first four centuries AD and it showed how cosmopolitan the population was. It was phenomenal just how many people we had here from all over the Roman Empire and that we were by no means a backwater of that

Empire. In fact, in the fourth century AD we were one of Rome's wealthier provinces.

Dr Moorhead started with pictures of Caesar from a coin of 55 BC and he explained that although Caesar got little further north than Hertfordshire, he did start the practice of trade with the near continent, which began the first recorded writing in this country. Iron Age Britain did have some words on coins but very few would have been able to read them. The history of our progress was mainly told on tombs. For example, the tombs of two soldiers of the ninth Legion show them to have come from Macedonia and from Hungary. Another soldier buried near Hadrian's Wall came from Thrace.

Writing tablets gave another huge insight into the way people lived. Most of these are on thin pieces of birchwood and few have survived. Another way writing has helped us is from inscriptions on the wall and gates of forts telling which Legions were there and when. Yet another way was from altars which were erected to give thanks for perhaps the completion of a perilous journey or something of that sort. In 1980 while excavating at Vinderlanda, now called Chesterholme, just two miles south of Hadrian's Wall, some 2,000 tablets were found in waterlogged ground and were fairly well preserved. They gave a new insight into many things. For instance, although the fort of Vinderlanda held 700 soldiers, it now appears that at the time of writing the tablet only 296 were present; some were sick, some were in London and some were in York. Other tablets showed the amount of stores and where they were and also the fact that there was a lot of local trading. There was even a birthday invitation from the wife of one fort commander to another in rather spidery writing, one of the first examples in the whole Roman Empire of a woman's writing. Some of this writing was very crude and some very fine, and although they were predominately in Latin, some Celtic styles were creeping in. It is clear that by 250 AD Britons were serving in some Roman units and by 300 AD it was Britons defending themselves against the Scots and the Irish. All these things the tablets have told us.

Then there were the curses. These were used to invoke the gods to

enact revenge on wrongdoers - they were mainly for theft and they would have been nailed to the wall of a temple or rolled up and thrown in a spring. Many were very amusing, calling for dire remedies such as disembowelment or worse, to be wrought on the thief. The quality of the writing differed greatly and it seems that to be effective they had to be written by the hand of the accuser. They clearly show a far greater degree of literacy than hither to thought. They were mostly in Latin but some were in Celtic.

Dr Moorhead ended by talking about the landed gentry. By AD 250 German barbarians were moving across Gaul and the Romans lost some of their best grain producing areas. So in order to feed the Legions in the north-west provinces, grain production here had to be greatly increased. Many of the local landed gentry made a great deal of money. Great villas in the Roman style were built such as Lullingstone, and Bignor being the ones we have locally. There were many signs of this great wealth. In Water Newton in Cambridgeshire an early silver communion set was unearthed. This has many pieces in it and would have been purchased at enormous cost. Then there was the Mildenhall Hoard, famous for its use of gold and silver and which must have been made in one of the silver centres in Roman Italy, which shows the almost unbelievable wealth of some of the local gentry.

In summing up, Dr Moorhead said that these finds show that Roman Britain was a good deal more literate than was previously thought and that Latin was probably a much more spoken and written language of the people with Celtic, Greek and Palmyri alongside. In the later Roman period, Britain was a very rich province, vital to Rome for its foodstuff and metals. Finally, the people supplying the food became very rich and lived roman Roman lifestyle which continued after the Romans left until they were overwhelmed in the sixth century.

Joanne Lawrence

SUSSEX CHURCHES

John Vigor 12 March 1999

Mr Vigor gave us a most interesting illustrated talk. It was like going on a tour through the architectural history of our Sussex Anglican churches - a detective story as he picked out the clues that illustrated the age and development of the churches.

Kent became Christian in about 650 but it was not until the end of the seventh century that Christianity came to Sussex when Saint Wilfred came from the north. The early churches consisted of two cells, a nave and a chancel which may have been round or square ended. Saxon churches had thin walls and round arches such as can be seen at Lyminster near Arundel. This church was begun in 1040 and was part of the nearby nunnery. The Normans, when constructing their walls, made them lower and thicker which can sometimes make people think that they are older than the Saxon churches.

Churches were of a stone rubble construction; as the fields were worked the stones were cleared and collected. Having calculated where east was, the building would begin. Laying out the foundations they built in layers as the work in the fields and the seasons dictated. When winter came, the top layer would be capped with mortar and left until the following year. Another layer of mortar was then put on top and work recommenced. The layers can be seen in some churches and can be counted like tree rings giving some indication of how long the building took. The roof would be covered in thatch but it was later re-roofed in stone or slate and the whole church was rendered in a lime coating. The Victorians, when they came to repair churches, sometimes took off this protective layer thinking it unnecessary and the weather was allowed to penetrate the walls making them damp as at North Marden.

The Parish church would show the wealth or otherwise of the area; the early Sussex iron industry was not as profitable as the wool trade in Kent, as reflected in the churches. Good stone is needed for

dressing the towers and making the corners. If this was not available, a round tower was built as at St Michael's church in Lewes and at Piddinghow. The church at Southease also has a round tower and the chancel arch was made of timber and plaster. The church at Poynings was built at the bequest of Michael of Poynings who died in 1369, a memorial to a wealthy man. It has a well made tower with dressed stone at the corners. This church does not reflect its surroundings as it would have been in a poor area at the time it was built.

The church at Up Marden with its tall pointed early English windows with a rere arch at the back of the windows is a sign of untypical wealth. Warbleton also had a rere arch. Alfriston church, known as the cathedral of the Downs has always been kept in good order. It was owned by Michelham Priory and money was given for its upkeep. There is an interesting comparison between Alfriston and the small single cell church at Didling which had one flush of wealth in the thirteenth century when it was built and then nothing since; the church still has some early remaining pews which were made in 1340 as there was never any money to replace them. They are said to be uncomfortable. Most other churches seemed to have had some money left to them every 150 to 200 years, so managing to keep up their repairs. Chantry funds provided some income for the priests who were paid to say masses for the dead. These masses were financed by land left for this purpose. As some of these priests were itinerant, they were provided with a cottage or place near the church where they stayed. Itchingfield has a charming chantry cottage in the church yard where the priest could stay for one night a week.

The wealth of the churches can be seen in their construction, wall paintings and adornments, and later in the memorials and tombs and the building and enlarging of chapels in remembrance of the dead. Wall paintings were also a sign of wealth and these were usually done by local craftsmen. The thirteenth century church at Mountfield has a wall painted to resemble brickwork which was difficult to distinguish from the real thing in the dim lighting of the time. Wall paintings told stories, some of the finest are in the church at Hardam near

Pulborough where they depict Saint George killing the dragon, and Adam and Eve. As these paintings are in the chancel, they were only visible to the priests.

Hagroscopes are a common feature in churches with a narrow chancel, where a hole is cut through the wall giving the priest at the side altars a view of the high altar to facilitate the co-ordination of the mass. Larger churches such as Battle may have had as many as 8 to 10 altars. The hagroscopes had been thought to have been squints for lepers to see the mass but this is now thought incorrect. After the Dissolution, preaching became the central activity of the priest so the pulpit came into its own, with many elaborate pulpits being built.

The church rate was one of the ways that the church was financed and everyone had to pay, even nonconformists. Another was by renting a pew (at Shumanby the names can still be seen). Box pews were built in the eighteenth century, a good example being at Walminghurst. Pew size reflected the status of the occupant with the best being under the royal coat of arms. Some pews were very grand, as at Warbleton which had a free standing one. Sussex retains more family pews than most other counties.

The Victorians were very interested in their churches adding to, restoring and building. Some were good, some not so good. Saint Bartholomew's at Brighton, built by Edmund Scott is the tallest Parish church in England towering over the small houses around it. Charles Kemp was a prolific church furnisher and many churches in Sussex have stained glass by him. William Morris also contributed with his craftsmanship. Saint Saviour's at Eastbourne, built by Edmund Street is a modern church made of modern materials, brick and plate glass and it fits into its surroundings. There are 400 medieval churches in Sussex. They are an important part of our history and need to be preserved. Once a church has gone the village looses its focal point and everyone loses a piece of living history.

B Francis

ARMS, ARMOUR AND WEAPONS USED AT THE TIME OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

Mr Ian Peirce 26 March 1999

Mr Peirce delivered a very informative lecture, illustrated by slides and reproductions of the equipment that he has made.

No equipment accurately dateable to the eleventh century has been identified and so we are reliant upon conjecture for its actual construction and appearance, based upon primary documentary sources such as the Bayeux Tapestry and chroniclers accounts of the battle. Also helpful, with caution, are wall paintings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture and equipment from the tenth and twelfth centuries. These sources also tell us much about contemporary tactics and how the weapons were used. With this caveat in mind, Mr Peirce proceeded to describe various items of arms and armour in turn.

Armour was of chain mail construction, consisting of interlocking rings, which were formed into a shirt known as a hauberk. This garment weighed approximately 23 lbs and was worn over a padded undergarment. It was very flexible but of only limited protection against anything other than a sword. The square, which is commonly seen at the throat of hauberks, may have been a double thickness of mail to protect that vulnerable area , similar to the later gorget, or a flap, which could be raised to cover the lower face during battle. A mail coif, laced at the back, was worn under the helmet, whilst mail leggings may have been worn by the Saxon housecarls but not by the knights of Duke William's army. The hauberk of King Wenceslaus, c.900-920 is split from the waist down, at the rear only. Later garments had splits front and rear but it is not known at what date the front split was introduced. The hang of the garment gives the appearance of leggings, particularly when on horseback, hence the controversy regarding the possible existence of mail leggings.

Helmets were conical, being formed either in one piece or of several

triangular sections held together by steel bands, and had the characteristic nasal bar. Some helmets were decorated or etched with a variety of stylized designs, including religious subjects.

The knights and housecarls favoured the distinctive kite shield, a shape that was particularly well suited to fighting on horseback. The Nordic style round shield was generally in use by the Saxon fyrd, although it may have retained some favour among the Saxon nobility for both Leofwine and Gyrth are depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry with such shields. Lime appears to have been the preferred wood for these shields.

Swords at the time of the Battle of Hastings would have weighed about 2½ lbs and many near contemporary survivals seem to indicate a popularity for fine decoration; zoomorphic designs on hilts, gilding to pommels and inscriptions inlaid on blades. Often the inscriptions are invocations to God or the gods. One Scandinavian example had Christian on one side and pagan on the other. River mud is the best medium for preserving metal; particularly rich sources for swords are the rivers Thames, Danube and Dneiper.

The bow was a short bow. The wood used is not known to us, but may have included dwarf Elm. Arrows would, it is thought, have been of bodkin type i.e. long, narrow heads, ideal for penetrating through the middle of the chain mail rings. Ireland is a particularly rich source for such finds, from the tenth century. Our museum has a fine example, which was found in the River Thames. Axes were of two types, small throwing axes and the ubiquitous two-handed cleaving axe favoured by the housecarls. There is an example of the former type of axe head, found in Battle on display in our museum.

In answer to a question, Mr Peirce said that sword blades are often found to have been "pattern welded", which gives both an attractive pattern and a very strong blade. It is also interesting to note that the inscriptions are often more legible when there is slight corrosion, rather than when polished. In answer to a further question, Mr Peirce

attributed a lack of finds at this site to recovery by the victors rather than decay in the soil.

Neil Clephane - Cameron

THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST AND ITS AIMS

Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss 15 October 1999

Sir John Curtiss, who is Chairman of the Battlefields Trust started by saying that to understand the future, we must first understand from where we came and what has formed the roots and institutions of our homeland. Winston Churchill, himself a great historian, always said the "battlefields are the punctuation marks of history". The history of the United Kingdom was most certainly formed on its battlefields and its most enduring architecture is its castles. The great acts of parliament from the Magna Carta to the creation of a parliamentary democracy, in the 1600's, came about through armed conflict and one has only to look at the troubled history of Ireland to understand the lasting impact of just one battle - the Battle of the Boyne. So the preservation of our Battlefields in this country and the provision of information to visitors at the sites is a matter of great importance. It is the preservation of our history and the wide understanding of the events which took place that has brought us to where we are today. That is the aim of the Battlefields Trust.

The second Battle of Naseby was responsible for the formation of the Trust. If one had to compile a list of the twenty most important battles in history, two English battles would have to be included - Hastings and Naseby. Hastings changed the face of these islands and combined the strengths of the Saxon and Norman peoples, which laid the foundations of a country which would have more influence in the world than any other in the past millennium; and Naseby which sealed the fate of the absolute monarchy, and ushered in an era of parliamentary democracy.

The second Battle of Naseby was fought in 1991 and the

parliamentarians won again! The minister of the day allowed the A1-M1 link road to go right across the battlefield. There had been no co-ordinated opposition to the road and it was decided to hold a conference in Leicester and invite historians from home and abroad to attend. This well attended conference decided that nothing like Naseby should ever happen again, and so the Battlefields Trust was set up and registered as a Charity.

The aims of the Trust are simple - to work for the preservation, interpretation and presentation of battlefields as part of our heritage. This includes all battlefields on which Britons have fought or those with a British interest, although it must be said that the Trust's ability to influence overseas battlefields is small. Where a battlefield is not open to the public, the Trust tries to buy the land, open it and provide on-site information panels.

The Trust organises battlefield walks, study days and conferences. It assists with re-enactments and joins with local groups and societies to present them. It is felt that these are a good way to bring battlefields alive. To increase membership, the Trust is having a website established and it hopes that through this, members of the general public will alert the Trust as to any building or other works which might damage or degrade a battlefield. After the disaster of Naseby, any warning the Trust can get, will be helpful. Sir John finished by saying that although the membership of the Trust is quite small, he hoped that by speaking to groups such as ours and by using the website, more can be encouraged to join.

Joanne Lawrence

HOGARTH

Dr T Jardine Brown 12 November 1999

Our speaker commenced his talk by indicating there had been hundreds of books written about Hogarth and consequently he would

be only dealing with one small aspect viz Hogarth in relation to medical characters of the eighteenth century. Medicine deals with the less pleasant and unmentionable subjects in life and Dr Jardine Brown warned the audience that he would be mentioning them.

William Hogarth was born in 1697 near to St Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was to become a governor thirty seven years later. He was apprenticed at the age of fifteen to a silver plate engraver in Leicester Fields. Hogarth lived in this area of London for most of his life other than visits to his country house in Chiswick. His formal education was cut short because his father, who was a classical scholar, was poor. After his father's death in 1718, Hogarth's mother made a precarious living selling patent medicines so the connection with medicine starts very early. When he was twenty he entered a drawing school and became an independent engraver producing shop cards, funeral tickets and anything else that was needed. The works of classical masters, such as Raphael etc., were well known to him through prints from Amsterdam and Paris, which were exhibited in the coffee houses in London. Hogarth's style in relationship with the medical profession developed and as Charles Lamb wrote "other prints we look at - Hogarth's are read". He had a close and warm friendship with a number of individual doctors whose portraits he painted.

Hogarth's association with St Bartholomew's Hospital in Smithfield began in February 1734 when he offered to paint the "Pool of Bethesda" for the Grand Staircase in order that the commission should not go to a foreigner. He was not paid for this work and later became a Governor. A year later he painted the "Good Samaritan" to cover the other part of the staircase. Many of the characters in the paintings were of inmates in the hospital. His barbs of satire were aimed at quacks and charlatans and not the true professionals. Doctors, diseases, remedies or quacks appear in 25 of Hogarth's pictures and nearly half of these are on wholly medical subjects. The more one looks at Hogarth's pictures the more one finds.

The first satirical prints appeared in 1721 and the first medical print

appeared between 1725-1726. Dr Jardine Brown then amused the audience with the story of a girl called Mary who was married to a Joseph Tofts, claimed in 1726 to have given birth to rabbits, some live but others dead! Hogarth's picture showed her being delivered of innumerable rabbits. (The "balloons" coming from peoples heads indicating their speech, were known in the eighteenth century as "physic labels", resembling the parchment labels tied round the necks of medicine bottles). Various physicians and surgeons were called to examine Mary when she had been taken to London for observation. No more rabbits were forthcoming. Various pamphlets were printed and even a play put on in London about this extraordinary affair. Mary eventually confessed that it was a hoax and she was committed for wasting medical time.

Hogarth eloped in 1729 and married Jane Thornhill whose father was painter to the King, an occupation which he later occupied himself. In 1732 Hogarth published "The Harlot's Progress" which was issued to 1,200 subscribers. The original paintings were destroyed by fire in 1755, and so only the engravings remain. The painting was described to us in great detail and to much amusement, indicating there is much to "read" in Hogarth's works. Following the success of the Harlot's Progress, many pirate copies were published, so many, that Hogarth applied to Parliament for redress and he was granted copyright for fourteen years after publication. He delayed publication of his next work "The Rake's Progress" until the 25th June 1735, the day after the Act became law. In 1738 "The Four Times of Day" appeared and another famous slide showed the "Arms of Undertakers", which appeared in 1736 and showed twelve "doctors" one of whom was one John Taylor who blinded Bach in a failed cataract operation.

Hogarth became governor of Bedlam in 1752 and it was the custom to pay 2d to the porters to enable one to go into the hospital as one might visit a zoo. Bedlam was also used as a place of trysting or assignation and it collected £400 per year as a result.

William Hogarth died in 1764 and is buried in Chiswick Churchyard.

The slides shown by Dr Jardine Brown were fascinating and he held his audience with many amusing anecdotes, and indicating from the amount of detail which Hogarth introduced in his pictures it was obvious that much time could be spent examining each one, which he encouraged us so to do. They were truly meant "to be read".

Diane Braybrooke

THE HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF LEWES

Ms Rachel Powell 10 December 1999

The speaker introduced the talk by setting it in its scene of "a slow amble around Lewes from the top of the town". Lewes is an ancient settlement whose name is derived from the work Lew, meaning hill and height is its prominent feature. It was a walled town, graced by a castle on its summit and a substantial Norman Priory at its feet. The Priory was built by William de Warenne and his wife Gundrada, mistakenly believed by the Victorians to be the daughter of the Conqueror. Both had been on an intended visit to Rome and had been delayed at the Abbey of Cluny in France. So impressed were the couple by the foundation that they decided to build a similar one in Lewes and in so doing, created a church greater in size than Westminster Abbey and built, amazingly, from Caen stone ferried across the Channel and along the Ouse. When the Abbey was dissolved, the buildings were bought by Thomas Cromwell, but the walls were so solid that Cromwell was unable to dismantle them and it was sold on to be destroyed by explosive. In fact, much of Lewes, particularly in the Southover area, is built from reclaimed Abbey stone, most notably the Grange, once the childhood home of the diarist John Evelyn and later a favourite lodging of the Prince Regent.

Returning to the town itself, the speaker made much of the magnificent architecture and splendid buildings, still surviving. Lewes is famous for its mathematical tiles and other noteworthy features, such as the Coade stone figures on the Law Courts and distinctive Ammonite bosses on a building, once the home of Gideon Mantell.

This was the man who uncovered an iguanadon and spent a life obsessed by fossils and whose twisted skeletal spine finished up in the Royal College of Surgeons (until later lost by bombing during the War).

Another interesting resident of the High Street, at Lewes House was Edward Perry Warren, a young wealthy American collector of art who commissioned from Rodin, the controversial sculpture "The Kiss". Lewes could have owned this priceless work as Warren tried to five it to the town and arranged for it to be displayed on the staircase of the Town Hall. The local ladies however, felt that wounded soldiers from the Great War might over-excite themselves at the sight of it and it was ignominiously banished from public view. After some years of being locked away, it was sold to the Tate Gallery for £7,500!

Another military connection with the town was a building near Gorringes which was used to house Russian prisoners from the Crimean War. The men were actually Finns and were apparently very distinctive as they strolled through the town in their fur hats. Many died in Lewes and are buried in the churchyard of St John sub Castro, and remembered by a memorial bearing their names.

The Old Library at the bottom of the hill was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott and is now a private residence. Slightly further along, beside the bridge across the Ouse, is a building now used as a Riverside Centre but once the original factory of the Russell and Bromley shoe company. It was here that the first order came from the prison for shoes for the prisoners at 7/6d the pair.

Across the bridge is the sole survivor of Lewes' many breweries, and the most famous of them, Harveys, is still a leading producer. The Georgian building facing the river was once the home of the chief brewer who was required to live "on the premises".

No discussion of Lewes can fail to be dominated by one man, Thomas Paine, who lived here in the eighteenth century at Bull House, once the

town house of the Gorings. Paine was born in Thetford, the son of a staymaker and had a Quaker upbringing. He migrated to Lewes and married Elizabeth Olive, the daughter of a local tobacconist. He was employed as an excise officer which, at the time, and in an area dominated by smuggling, was a dangerous and poorly paid job. Always an articulate man, he was asked by his fellow workers to petition Parliament for better pay and conditions and this, not unexpectedly, landed him in much trouble. His marriage collapsed and he sailed for America, armed only with a letter of introduction to Benjamin Franklin. In America he wrote "The Rights of Man" which inspired the Declaration of Independence and then transferred to Paris where he was similarly involved in the French Revolution. He was condemned to death because he refused to sign the death warrant of King Louis and only escaped execution himself because he was so ill that his cell door was left open, thus concealing the red x sign of his own sentence. He returned to America and was granted a farm at New Rochelle where he ultimately died, having apparently outworn his welcome in that country. Only five people attended his funeral and it is believed that William Cobbett arranged for his body to be returned to England. It got as far as Liverpool and then disappeared. Rumour has it that Cobett's son tried to sell Paine's bones in Horsham Market - probably untrue but certainly a sad reflection on fallen glory.

Appropriately, Lewes is also the cradle of British democracy as it was here that Simon de Montfort triumphed, briefly, over Henry III at the Battle of Lewes. The whole town is a microcosm of British history from the iron age fort on Mount Caburn to the pre-Norman mints, where coins were produced. The 5th of November celebrations reflect the anguish of no-Popery and the Castle demonstrates the vital strategic importance of the town. Today Lewes is the County town of East Sussex, elegant and largely unspoiled and totally steeped in historical interest.

David Sawyer

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1999

VISIT TO ROCHESTER AND COBHAM HALL

Twenty four members left Battle for Rochester, whose long history and culture derives from its strategic position at the Medway crossing on the route from Dover and Canterbury to London. Our cathedral guides gave a most interesting talk on the history, architecture and works of art. It is the second oldest cathedral foundation in England after Canterbury, the site having being in constant use for fourteen hundred years. Originally founded in 604 by Justus, a Benedictine monastery was later established by Lanfranc and Gundulf in 1080. The Norman cathedral was completed in 1130 and consecrated by Henry I. It suffered disastrous fires in 1137 and 1179, and the new Gothic cathedral was begun in 1180.

Among many things of interest is a fragment of thirteenth century wall painting of the wheel of fortune which was recently cleaned, revealing its original colours. Also, the site of a shrine to a pious baker, William of Perth, who on pilgrimage in 1201, was murdered by his servant after spending the night at the Priory. His body was taken back to the cathedral and buried. Miracles conveniently started to occur at his tomb, bringing wealth to the priory. Originally, against the north wall of the north transept, the shrine was destroyed with all others in 1547.
The cathedral continued to change with the times and when the monasteries were dissolved in 1540 the last Prior became the first Dean. The monks were gone for ever and the priory building became a royal palace, but little now remains.

In the early sixteenth century the cathedral had two martyrs; the Archbishops Fisher and Ridley, one protestant and the other catholic. Fisher was executed in 1535 by Henry VIII for opposition to his divorce, and Ridley was burnt by Mary in 1554 for his faith. During the civil war in 1642, commonwealth soldiers were quartered in the crypt and it was used as a carpenters shop and yard and suffered considerable damage. The Cathedral was steadily restored during the

reign of Charles II and subsequent building and restoration has continued over the centuries so that today we can continue to enjoy this splendid medieval cathedral.

Cobham Hall at Cobham was formerly the seat of the Dukes of Lennox and Richmond. It is a red brick Tudor mansion dating from 1584. Queen Elizabeth is said to have visited in 1559 when it was still a manor house. It has some interesting rooms, some of which were decorated by James Wyatt, and a Snetzler organ in the gilt hall. The house was acquired by the Ministry of Public Works in 1961 and the paintings were sold to pay death duties; copies now hang around the walls. It was later sold and is now an educational trust, open to the public on certain days.

B Francis

CLAYTON PARISH CHURCH

Our June outing was to Clayton Parish Church to see the medieval wall paintings. The church has Saxon origins and was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The chancel arch is clearly Saxon. The paintings are over and around the arch and along the upper part of each side of the nave. They have been dated to about 1080 and believed to be of Cluniac style. The Priory at Lewes was a Cluniac foundation. Most people in the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries could neither read nor write, so in most churches pictures were used to teach the Gospel stories. In Clayton's case, it was of the Second Coming. The set of paintings is remarkable not only for its greatness as a work of art but also for its high decorative quality and for the singleness of its subject. All paintings on church walls were removed or obliterated in the sixteenth century; Clayton's being covered with successive coats of limewash. They were long forgotten, and only in 1893 were they rediscovered.

The paintings are impressive today and one can only marvel at what they would have looked like in their original brilliant colours.

DANNY

The second part of the afternoon was spent at the Elizabethan house of Danny. It was built by Sir Gregory Dacre (who owned Herstmonceux Castle) in about 1580. It was then known as Danye. The house was sold to George Goring a few years later and he enlarged and remodelled it to what we see today. The Great Hall, which is 45 feet long, was one of the last Elizabethan Great Halls which were open to the huge oak rafters. A century later, a false ceiling was inserted, presumably for warmth. In October 1918, the Imperial War Cabinet, under Lloyd George met there. In 1728, a huge curved, unsupported staircase was built at the south end of the Hall with three balusters to each tread, two being twisted and one columnar. These are in walnut and the hand rail is oak. The grounds tucked right under the Downs were very beautiful. The house is now owned by the Country Houses Association.

MARBLE HILL HOUSE

The first of the 1999 Summer Outings was to Marble Hill House in Twickenham, which is a compete example, both inside and out, of an English Palladian Villa. It was built between 1724 and 1729 for Henrietta Howard, the mistress of George II and later the Countess of Suffolk. The design was based on a drawing by Colen (sic) Campbell and the richly gilded Great Room was based on a design by Inigo Jones. The grounds which slope down to the Thames were laid out with the advice of Alexander Pope. The house contains an important collection of early Georgian paintings and furniture.

HAM HOUSE

In the afternoon we visited Ham House in Twickenham. This great Stuart house stands only ten miles from the centre of London and is on the opposite side of the river to Marble Hill. Sir Thomas Vavasour, Knight Marshal to James I, built the house in 1610 and the house became the property of William Murray in 1627. He was created first

Earl Dysart by Charles I and during the Civil War had to flee abroad. He died in exile, when the house passed to his only child Elizabeth, much of whose interior decoration still survives today. Sir Lyonel Tollemache, a direct descendant of Elizabeth gave the very beautiful house to the National Trust in 1949. The house has been the subject of extensive repairs and redecoration which continue today.

Joanna Lawrence

OBITUARY - Professor Eleanor Searle

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of Professor Eleanor Searle last April.

She had a great love of Battle and everything associated with it. Eleanor was a founder-member of the Battle Conference on Anglo-Norman Studies and a former Vice-President of the Battle and District Historical Society. Among her published works were: Lordship and the Community, Battle Abbey and its Banlieu 1066-1538, The Chronicle of Battle Abbey and finally Predatory Kinship and Creation of Norman Power 840-1066.

She had a wonderful sense of humour and a great love of life. She is already greatly missed.

Ian Peirce, Cowbeech - 11th November 1999