

# Joining up our Heritage

Newsletter February 2011

I am very happy to report that the project now seems to be steaming ahead and as a result of my two meetings to introduce the project to potential new volunteers, several more have signed up and have already made a significant contribution.

As with all new enterprises, the project has taken some time to get going. Sadly, because the project was designed to run for only two years, we are now having to focus on bringing it to a conclusion. In case you had forgotten, this was due to be at the end of this July, but thankfully it has been possible to extend the project until the end of this year. Although we have some extra time, I have decided it would be wise to continue to aim for as much to be done as possible by the end of July as originally planned, so that the rest of the time can be given to tying up any loose ends and adding the information to the databases. More about this at a later date.

## The Easter Period

This is an advance notification that I will be having another 'close-down' period at Easter. For those who have only been involved in the project since Christmas, this means that I won't be working with volunteers for a set period of time so I can concentrate on adding material to the databases. I will give further details in the next newsletter.

## Work Experience

One of the strengths of the project is that we are able to offer a range of work experience opportunities. I have introduced some of the people doing work experience in past newsletters. At the moment there are four second year history students from Chichester University working on the project. Three of these are carrying out tasks as part of a work placement module ('Applied History in the Workplace').

Kelly Mascall is creating a package of source information on the workhouses and poorhouses of West Sussex. Heather-Ann Dunlop is evaluating material on the West Sussex Land Army and Grace Ireland is creating montages of extracts from oral history recordings, that will ultimately be attached to individual databases. The fourth student, Lucy Stubbs, has volunteered to be

part of the project from a personal wish to gain experience of working in a Record Office. She is making a valuable contribution by locating sources for the Walberton database.



Kelly Mascal, Heather-Ann Dunlop, Lucy Stubbs and Grace Ireland

## 'So, who are the volunteers?'

I have decided to include two volunteers in this month's newsletter – Pat Brannigan and Diana Roberts. The reason is that they are two extremely reliable volunteers who both come on a Tuesday. Pat comes in the morning and almost as soon as she has left, Diana arrives to use the same computer. I don't believe they have ever met, but I'm sure that when Diana sits down, she sometimes notices that the seat is still warm.



Up until recently, Pat has not always known what type of task would be in store for her when she arrived on any on any particular Tuesday. I have asked her to do many sorting out jobs, or finishing those that have been only half done. Pat has been very willing in this and persevered where others might have fallen by the wayside. I'm always relieved when she comes back the next week for more, but she assures me she thrives on variety!

**Pat Brannigan**

## Diana Roberts

Diana has been working for the project since the beginning. This has meant that she was subject to various early experiments to gather and sort information for the database. She has been extremely patient and more recently has produced a wonderful transcription of a very special 18th-19th century memorandum, which we are going to use on the Tangmere database. It has taken weeks for Diana to transcribe it and she has also made an analysis of some of the detail of the transcript, which is extremely interesting and very useful.



Pat and Diana are now helping Brian Hawke to list articles from the Sussex Archaeological Collection of which there are nearly 150 volumes dating back to 1847. This type of tasks needs patience and an ability to work systematically.

I am particularly grateful to Pat and Diana for their 100% dependability. They keep me informed of their attendance, or otherwise, and always arrive on the dot! I wonder if they will all ever meet?

## A Personal Request

I confess that this question does not relate to the project, but has something to do with archive sources. I have a mild interest in nettlecloth. Quite recently, Annabelle Hughes brought to my attention an entry of Nettlecloth in a Horsham inventory. I would be grateful if anyone could please let me know if they have also come across recordings of nettlecloth in other inventories?

Thanks again to everyone involved.

Best wishes,  
Gillian