THE SUSS-EX CLUB
NEWSLETTER No. 43, summer 2018
Edited by Adrian Peasgood

Forthcoming event: Plumpton College visit
Tuesday 24 July, 10.30 am – 3.30 pm

Our host will be Reg Lanaway, who entered the college as a student in 1954 and has been a member of staff (now emeritus) for most of his professional life. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of agriculture in Sussex, how the use of the countryside has changed over the last 60 years, how village life has been affected, and how agricultural education has evolved to take account of these changes.

Please arrive between 10 and 10.30. The bus from Lewes Bus Station at 9.55 calls at the college at 10.12 and the return service at 4.17 arrives in Lewes at 4.34. For those traveling by car there is parking at the college and it may be possible to reserve some spaces.

Places are limited and registration will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

A registration fee (see booking form) will be donated to the Plumpton College Charitable Trust for the support of students at the college.

Participants should wear stout footwear.

Programme

Coffee and a talk about the history of the college
Visits to college buildings, stables and equestrian centre, and mechanical workshops
Lunch in the refectory (main courses, salads, snacks to be paid for at the checkout).
Walk to the farm (those who find walking difficult will be able to drive), possibly including brief visits en route to horticulture, floristry, animal care.
Visit to the cow hall, possibly including observation of a milking session and the opportunity to learn about breeding, beef and milk production.
Visit to the farm information centre (agricultural records, geological maps etc.)

If you and your guests would like to join the tour, please complete the form printed at the end of the newsletter and send it to Dr David Smith, 12 Mount Harry Road, Lewes, BN7 1NY, enclosing a cheque for £7 per person payable to Dr J D Smith, by Monday 9 July 2018. Address queries to David [j.d.smith@sussex.ac.uk] or 01273 472564.

Forthcoming event: Campus boundary walk
Friday 21 September, 10.00 am - lunchtime

For a description - and aerial view - of the campus boundary walk, please see [www.sussex.ac.uk/about/documents/boundary-walk-leaflet.pdf](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/about/documents/boundary-walk-leaflet.pdf). Martyn Stenning will lead a party of Suss-Ex members round the walk on Friday 21 September. He obtained a Sussex D.Phil in 1995, and for the next 15 years held a variety of teaching and other posts in the University; he is now ‘a semi-retired associate of Life Sciences’.

The walk starts near the roundabout at the beginning of Knight’s Gate Road, and will end at the Swan inn in time for lunch. Numbers will be capped, so early booking is advisable! Please send a note of your interest to Adrian Peasgood (adrian@peasgood.plus.com, or 01273 508620, or 14 Harrington Villas, Brighton, BN1 6RG).

The route is reasonably sheltered, and wet weather gear should be sufficient protection in the event of poor weather.

Recent publications

Retired members of staff remain members of the academic community and continue their intellectual involvement, expressed in academic journal articles, national and international conferences, and in other responsibilities. The following supplements previous lists.

**Derek ATHERTON**

• Atherton, D. P.  *Control Engineering – 60 Years of Development*. Proceedings Turkish National Control Conference, pp 63-77, Malatya, Turkey, September 2013.
• Atherton, D. P.  ‘Research should be reproducible’ letter to the editor, IEEE CSS Magazine Vol 35, No 2, p21, April 2015.

Richard COATES

Michael LAPPERT

Jeff LEIGH

Jennifer PLATT

Robert SMITH

Mike WALLIS
Obituaries

Valerie Cromwell FSA, FRHistS

Valerie Cromwell was born in Bradford in 1935. Her parents moved south when war work took her father to London. She was educated first at Brighton and Hove High School for Girls and then, when the family settled in Richmond in Surrey, at Putney High School for Girls. She did not apply for admission to Oxbridge, which would have involved further single sex education: showing her characteristic independence of mind, she decided to study at the University of London—and to live at home.

So she did her undergraduate work in History at King’s College, London, and was awarded the top First in the discipline throughout the University. She secured a fellowship at the Institute of Historical Research in 1959 and moved to Bedford College for her M.A., to work with Dame Lillian Penson. However ‘Dame Lil’ died shortly after and although Valerie taught modern British History at Bedford for a year, she soon moved to Newnham College in Cambridge. Asa Briggs then asked her to apply for a post at Sussex: Valerie and Beryl Williams were interviewed on the same day in February 1963, going down together on the Brighton Belle. Valerie postponed her arrival for a year because of her commitments at Newnham.

So she was at Sussex from 1964 to 1991, when she left to go to the History of Parliament. She was lecturer, later Senior Lecturer and then Reader, in History in the School of English and American Studies. She played a full administrative and social part in the affairs of the young and growing University, being several times a member of the University Senate.

She taught 19th and 20th century English history, focusing on institutional and parliamentary history, and in the 1980s developed an MA course on Perspectives in British Parliamentary and Political History, which she taught with Colin Brooks. In addition, given Sussex's interdisciplinary approach, Valerie and a colleague from the English faculty, Patricia Thomson, developed what may well have been the first ever inter-disciplinary course on Feminism in History and Literature. She was valued for her administrative skills as well as her teaching and for the care she took with her doctoral students, many of whom stayed in touch and became friends. One, who wrote on the House of Lords in the middle of the nineteenth century, successfully completed his thesis in time for him to return a term’s studentship (those were the days!) to the Department for Education and Science.

Valerie was a leading contributor to the discussions around what the 1960s and 70s knew as ‘the Victorian Revolution in Government’ and produced a key summary of the debate in Victorian Studies in 1966, followed by a reader on the same topic (Revolution or Evolution: British Government in the Nineteenth Century) in 1977. She published significant articles on the distribution of power in the nineteenth century House of Commons, for example on the control
of supply and on the role of the private member (the latter in the House of Commons Commission’s *Liber Memoralis Sir Maurice Powicke, 1965*); on the process and preparation of parliamentary business; and on the Foreign Office. She became increasingly interested in the manipulation of large data sets with the help of what were then still primitive computers, and produced intriguing charts tracing Commons’ voting patterns (revealing groups of like-minded MPs—and their distance from others).

As General Editor (and later Director) of the History of Parliament, she followed a number of distinguished historians: it was as a result of her determination that the whole ethos and working practices of the enterprise were transformed and put on a solid and professional footing. Her tenure of the post saw the publication of several of the History’s essential volumes and, crucially, and her major achievement, the launching of work on the House of Lords. Under her guidance the History began to engage, albeit tentatively, with the creation of computer-aided databases and materials. She initiated a seminar on Parliaments, Estates and Representation (later called Parliaments, Politics and People) at the Institute of Historical Research; this has been maintained by successive Directors. A Sussex doctoral student won the Institute’s prize for the best paper by a graduate student for a contribution to that seminar. Valerie established excellent relationships with the House of Commons’ Commission, funders of the enterprise, and welcomed a number of parliamentarians to the History’s Board of Trustees (and, indeed, to the Institute seminar).

Valerie was a long-term member of the International Commission for the History of Representative and Parliamentary Institutions, regularly attending and speaking at its meetings, and serving for a number of years as its Secretary-General. Her recruitment to that body was prompted by its President, Helli Koenigsberger, who believed that the Commission as it stood was in dire need of strengthening its commitment to the study of modern, alongside medieval and early modern, parliaments (a term broadly understood).

Valerie married John, later Sir John, Kingman in Cambridge in 1964. He became a member of the Sussex Mathematics faculty and subsequently Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol. Valerie and John spent many happy years in that city. Valerie was very proud of having been High Sherriff of Bristol in 2004–5.

Valerie Cromwell died in Bristol on 7 March 2018, aged eighty-two. She is survived by her husband, by a son and a daughter and grandchildren.

*Colin Brooks & Beryl Williams*

*Peter Lewis, d. 28 April 2018.*

*Ken Whittington, d. 5 May 2018.*

*Obituary notices are in preparation and should appear in the next Newsletter.*
Visit to Plumpton College booking form

Tuesday 24 July 10.30 am - 3.30 pm

Booking details (please print clearly)

Return this form to Dr David Smith at 12 Mount Harry Road Lewes BN7 1NY

by Monday 9 July 2018

Please reserve places for……. people. Booking fee £7 per person

Name(s) ..........................................................

Telephone ..................................Email address......................

Dietary requirements.............................

I enclose a cheque for £.............. (payable to Dr J D Smith).

I shall/ shall not arrive by car (Please delete as necessary)