



Welcome to
The Sussex Family History Group
Annual Conference and AGM 2019
at
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
Saturday 13th April 2019

*Please collect your name badge
on arrival at the conference*

Conference Timetable

09:30	Arrival, tea & coffee will be served.
10:15	Conference opened by SFHG Chairman
10:30 – 11:30	Martin McDowell: <i>A beginners guide to DNA</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Comfort Break
11:45 – 12:45	Jeremy Hodgkinson: <i>The Early-Modern Iron Industry in the Weald and its People</i>
12:45 – 2:15	Lunch Tea & Coffee will be available for all.
2:15 – 3:15	Bill Gage: <i>Tales of the Rails</i>
3:20	Raffle Draw
3:30	End of conference, Chairman's closing remarks Tea & coffee will be available for members
4:00	The 46th Annual General Meeting of the Sussex Family History Speakers and Stalls Group.

Martin McDowell

This talk aims to simplify the subject of DNA and promote understanding of DNA's capability as a powerful tool for furthering your family history.

Who is best to test? What test should I choose? What do I do with my results? What can be achieved? How do I make progress? What if I am adopted?

In this talk, different types of tests will be described and their benefits highlighted. Examples of successful uses of DNA will illustrate what can be realistically achieved and provide ideas for testing strategies. Verification of existing family trees and the discovery of additional family lines is not only possible but probable!

Martin McDowell is the Education and Development Officer for the North of Ireland Family History Society and a member of its Council of Trustees. With traditional research opportunities in Ireland more limited than in England (due to the destruction of many genealogical records in the early 1900s), Martin turned to DNA and successfully used it to break through his existing brick walls. He has been promoting DNA testing for a number of years by increasing awareness through a series of talks and lectures. He teaches courses and workshops on various aspects of DNA, provides one-to-ones and also manages a busy local DNA interest group. He encourages the creation of other DNA interest groups and is also an administrator of the highly successful North of Ireland DNA Project.

Jeremy Hodgkinson

The introduction of the technology of the blast furnace and finery forge into the Weald in the late-15th century opened up a new period of prosperity for the region, replacing methods of making iron that had not changed significantly since the pre-Roman Iron Age. This new process had been developed during the previous century in the Rhine and Meuse basins in what are now western Germany and Belgium, being introduced into Normandy in the 1450s. And it was from northern France that skilled ironworkers began to migrate to the Weald during the reign of Henry VII, introducing a small but significant immigrant social group that, in time, becoming absorbed through marriage with the indigenous population. Their skills made them a mobile workforce, seeking employment wherever ironworks were being established and thus helping to disseminate ironmaking across the south-east and to other regions of Britain and beyond.

This talk will examine the iron industry, its raw materials, methods and products, through the people who owned the ironworks, managed them and laboured there. Much of the original research into the families of ironworkers was carried out by the late Brian Awty whose book, *Adventure in Iron*, is being published in 2019 by the Wealden Iron Research Group, and which has been grant-aided by the Sussex Family History Group.

Bill Gage

Bill Gage was formerly Assistant County Archivist at West Sussex Record Office where he worked for forty-seven years until his retirement last year. His *raison d'être* was the records management of West Sussex County Council records but he was also responsible for a number of other important archive collections such as the hospital archives of West Sussex. In addition he dealt with any matters relating to railways as he has had a lifelong interest in railways which began at the age of three, riding behind his father's passenger carrying model steam locomotives. Whilst at the Record Office he organised three major exhibitions on railway history and co-authored the book "Going off the rails". With access to holdings of the film archive of SASE he has produced three Southern Steam DVDs which contained archival footage of steam railways which operated in the south east of England. He has lectured on railway history for the past twenty years and continues this activity in his retirement. However his talks are always aimed at the non-railway enthusiast concentrating on social history using railways as a platform, rather than concentrating on technical information.

Welcome to you all.

SFHG BOOK-STALL. Will have their usual excellent selection of family history and genealogy books, media and other genealogical items.

PETER DUNCAN will be offering a large variety of historical postcards.

RAFFLE- you can buy raffle tickets throughout the day. The prize draw will be at 3.20pm.

Venue Information

Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3DN

How to get to the conference

By Road: From the A23, take the A272 towards Haywards Heath town centre. Cross the mini roundabout at Paddockhall Road and continue to the B2028 turn left into The Broadway and continue down Perrymount Road. Clair Hall is towards the end on the right.

Free car parking is available at Clair Hall: however there are a limited number of spaces. Alternative parking facilities can be found at NCP car park in Clair Road and the car park at Haywards Heath railway station (both pay and display).

By Rail: Haywards Heath mainline railway station is approximately 5 minutes walk from Clair Hall. It is served by regular trains from London, Crawley and Brighton.

