

REPORT FROM SUSSEX CHURCH RECORDERS AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Message from Area representative

This seems the right time to tell you that having been your Area Representative for 10 years I will be standing down at the AGM in 2020.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to help such dedicated and hard-working Recorders and see them succeed in producing such wonderful records. Even when they have encountered setbacks such as the illness of their leader or of several members of their group most of them have soldiered on with some help to ensure the record was finished. I know that the sponsoring societies have been delighted with their groups and rightly so.

I hope that someone will come forward to take on my role so that groups have help at local level.

There are currently 6 active groups of Church Recorders in Sussex and their position is as follows:

1. Arun

The Group has finished recording their first church St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster and compilation will be finished soon. Meanwhile the Group has responded to a request to record St Nicholas Church, Arundel and will be starting there shortly.

2. Chichester/City of Chichester/Lavant Valley

The finishing touches to the compilation and printing of the record of St Peter and St Mary Fishbourne is well under way. When it is presented to the church it will be appropriate to thank Pam Hilton, who has retired, for her outstanding leadership of this combined group over many years. Fortunately, the Group continues under the leadership of Jennifer Woolfrey and Sheila Duff, and the Group has started to record St George's Church Whyke, Chichester.

3. Eastbourne

The presentation of the record of St Peter and St John's Church, Piddinghoe took place on Sunday 23 June 2019 and was warmly received by the Vicar and congregation. The Group has now disbanded after a long and successful innings under the leadership of Susan de Angeli and with compiler Jennifer Cross and photographer Keith Cross assisting the Group so that their records were all consistently of high quality.

4. East Grinstead

The compiling of the record of St Mary's Church East Grinstead continues with sections coming forward for checking.

5. Henfield

The finishing of the record of St Margaret's Church Ditchling is in the hands of Jennifer and Keith Cross.

Following the sad death of their photographer and the departure of a member of the Group, help was sought and Jennifer and Keith Cross stepped in. Members of the Group handed their work to Jennifer for incorporation into the record and their names will appear in the usual way as authors of those sections whilst Jennifer's help will be acknowledged as well. Some members of the Group would have liked to continue by themselves, but some sections had no one willing to undertake them. Consequently, outside help was needed to bring the record to fruition.

6. Horsham

The group has finished recording St Peter's Church, Newdigate. Apparently it is quite a small church so in contrast the group is starting on the larger church of St Martin Dorking which is nearby. 4 valiant members of the Dorking Society started to record this church some years ago but there were too few of them and they gave up, but the work they did is a useful start for the experienced Horsham Group. 50 windows there await recording!

7. Turners Hill

The leader and the compiler are correcting and compiling the sections of the record of All Saints Highbrook, because all other members of the group are no longer involved. They are to be commended for their determination to complete the record.

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