

The Shoreham Community Archive

Wendy Walker
County Archivist
20 September 2018

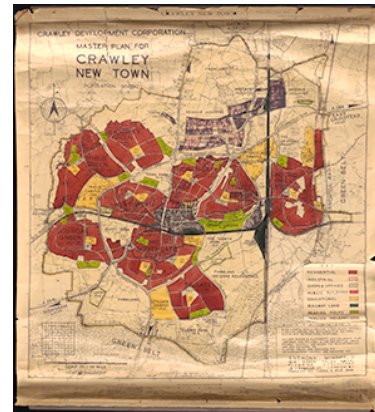
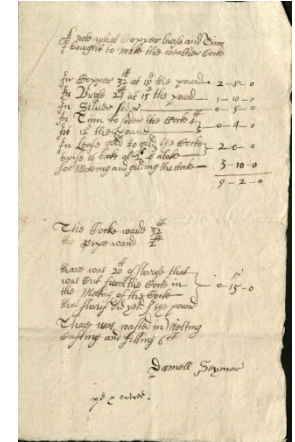
West Sussex Record Office

- West Sussex Record Office established in 1946
- Records Management Service set up in 1969
- Moved to Orchard Street in Chichester in 1989
- Purpose-built to British Standard for Archives (BS5454)
- Preservation, cataloguing, digitisation, public access
- Archives dating back over 1200 years



Archive Collections

- 5 strong rooms; 8 miles of shelving
- Estate and family archives
- Cathedral and Diocesan records (Diocesan Record Office)
- Royal Sussex Regimental Archive
- Records of local authorities, organisations, societies, businesses, schools, hospitals, courts, police, churches
- Paper and parchment, books, maps, plans, photographs, prints and drawings, oral histories, films
- Digital archives and modern media



Using the Archives

- Over 5000 visitors a year
- On-line catalogue
- Family, local and military historians
- Pupils, teachers, students and academics
- Archaeologists and landscape historians
- Legal, planning and business enquiries
- Authors
- Volunteers
- Talks, workshops, exhibitions
- Individual research and community groups: community archives





Partnerships



WEST SUSSEX
Record Office



NATIONAL
ARMY MUSEUM



Supported by
wellcometrust



SIGHT SUPPORT



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



Queen Victoria Hospital **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust



wiston**HOUSE**

Chichester Cathedral

 Historic England

**PALLANT
HOUSE
GALLERY**

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



A The National Archives

University
of Chichester

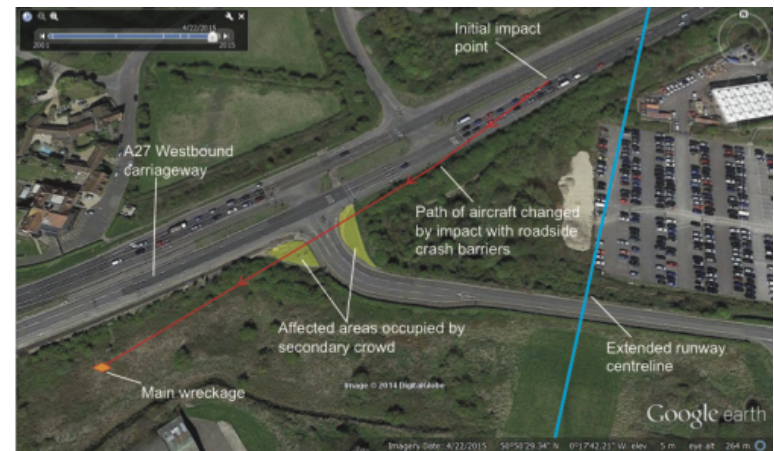
West Sussex Archives Society

 heritage
lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED



The Shoreham Airshow Disaster August 2015

- 1950s Hawker Hunter jet crashed on the A27 on Saturday 22 August 2015 at 1.22 pm
- 11 men died
- The pilot survived: charged with manslaughter by gross negligence. High Court case begins in Jan 2019
- Inquest adjourned and delayed until the criminal proceedings have been concluded



The Shoreham Airshow Disaster August 2015

- Emergency services mobilised and on the scene
- Shoreham Emergency Response Group set up by WSCC chaired by COO; met daily at noon
- Multi-disciplinary (Coroner, Fire and Rescue, Finance, IT, Press Office, Communities)
- Coroner's Inquest opened September 2015
- Air Accident Investigation Branch attended the scene (final report Mar 2017)



Shoreham Airshow Disaster: Community Response

- Charitable Fund Set up through the Sussex Community Foundation
- Books of condolence opened by WSCC, district councils and local churches
- Shoreham Tollbridge became the focus of community remembrance: flowers, messages, tributes



Shoreham Community Archive

- Sept 2015 WSRO were asked to help preserve the community archive
- Official archives deposited in due course
- Arrived in large plastic crates: many wet and in poor condition
- Different materials and formats: photos, drawings, artwork, CDs, toys, football shirts, a guitar, plastic containers, ribbons, labels
- Locals and visitors
- Community decision and impetus



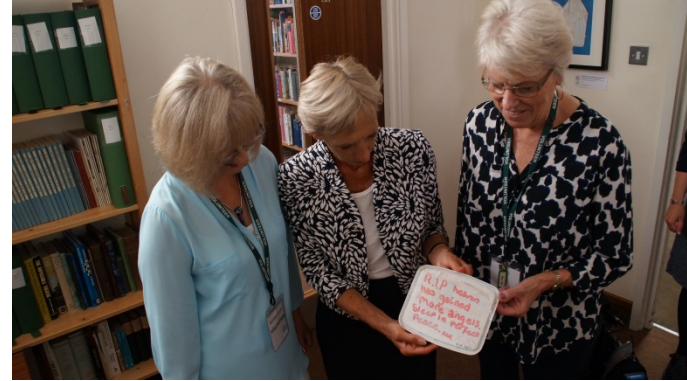
Shoreham Community Archive: Conservation

- Drying out
- Removing the mould
- Separating the messages
- Removing staples



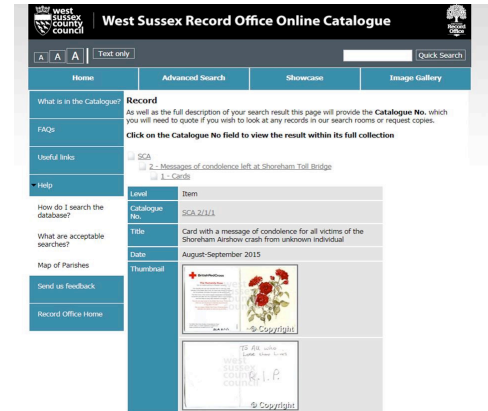
Shoreham Community Archive: Cataloguing and Digitising

- Volunteers worked with staff to catalogue and digitise over 1900 messages:
 - The format of the item
 - Whether the message was for a specific victim or victims of the crash
 - Who the card was from (if known); anonymous messages recorded as being from an unknown individual.
 - Other relevant information e.g. where the message includes a poem or prayer



Shoreham Community Archive: Cataloguing and Digitising

- Messages encased in melinex
- Bound into large bespoke volumes
- Online catalogue available Aug 2016
- Victims families consulted before it went on-line
- Families did not want the images of directly personal messages on-line
- The Shoreham Community Archive available in the Search Room



Shoreham Community Archive: Press & Media

- Huge media interest
- Two press and media days:
 - Sep 2015
 - 19 Aug 2016
- No filming of personal messages
- Local press supplied copies of their coverage
- WSCC Libraries collected media coverage
- Visit of Lord Lieutenant and royal briefing



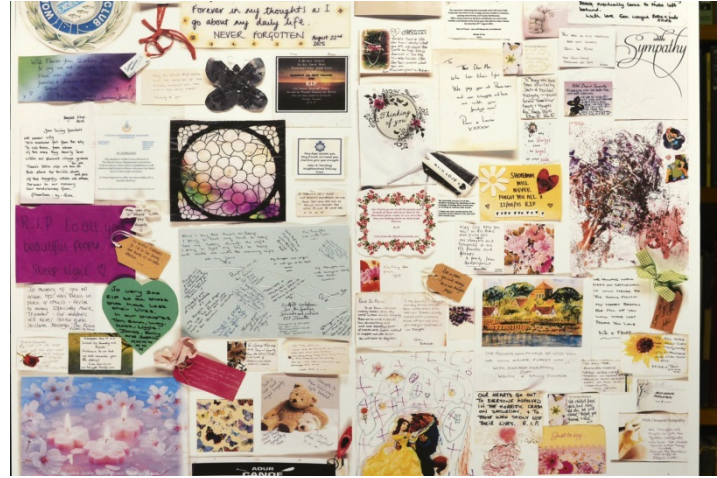
Shoreham Community Archive: Sensitivities

- Family visits
- Family consultation
- CDs of messages provided
- Emotional impact on staff and volunteers
- Staff and community cohesion
- Community issues



Shoreham Community Archive: the Future

- 'Is this an archive?'
- Template for the future: information offered to Croydon Tram Disaster and Grenfell
- Skills sharing, resources
- Use for the future: PTSD work; ongoing family involvement
- Publicity issues v personal privacy



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