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Biennial Dinner

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Friday 20th October 2023
Folkington Manor

Guest Speaker

Sir Nicholas Coleridge CBE DL

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Welcome to Folkington Manor

Folkington Manor was built in 1843 by the architect William John Donthorn (1799-1859), near the site of a manor that was recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. In the 1240s, that house had passed on the marriage of the heiress Olympia de Folkington with Sir John de la Warre, Sheriff of Herefordshire, in whose family it descended until purchased by Sir Richard Sackville, known as Fill-Sack on account of his prodigious wealth, in 1543.



Above: Dr Harry and Mrs Jacquie Brünjes

Below: Mr James Gwynne on the front steps of Folkington Manor

Eight years later, the bankruptcy of his great-grandson, the Second Earl of Dorset, brought about a forced sale for £2,300 to a London merchant. The Place, as it was formerly called, was held on a long lease by the Culpeper family. In 1652, just after the lease expired, Folkington was purchased by Sir William Thomas, and was one of only three houses in Sussex to be depicted in the fashionable Britannia Illustrata of 1707, the year after it had been inherited by William Dobell.



FOLKINGTON MANOR

The old house was largely demolished in about 1820. In 1840 Folkington, together with the manor house at nearby Wootton, were bought by Thomas Sheppard, M.P. for Frome, who three years later built the present manor at a new site slightly to the north of the church. Folkington Place, the remnants of the original building on the manorial site, retains some architectural elements of the ancient home of the Sackvilles, Culpepers, Thomases and Dobells.

After the death of Thomas Sheppard's son in 1875 both properties were sold to Mr James Gwynne, an engineer and antiquary, and in 1915 passed to his son Col. Rupert Gwynne, M.P. for Eastbourne between 1910 and 1924. Rupert Gwynne was father of Elizabeth David, the pre-eminent British cookery writer of the mid-20th century, and brother of Violet Gordon Woodhouse, the influential and highly acclaimed musician. On his death the house passed into the hands of his younger brother Sir Roland Gwynne, Mayor of Eastbourne 1928-31.

Ronald Stacy-Marks purchased the house and relatively a few acres in 1968. An initial restoration was undertaken after the property had been empty for five years. The Flint Rooms were at the core of the family's well-respected fine-art business with the Manor containing a number of galleries suitable for displaying large amounts of fine art. Adam Stacy-Marks took over the family business in 1987 increasing and completing the current estate.

In Autumn 2010 Folkington Manor was purchased by the Brünjes family and has undergone complete restoration. Dr. Harry Brünjes spent his formative years in showbusiness before a career in both medicine and the City. His wife,

Jacqueline Brünjes (stage name Jacquie Storey) is a well-known singer, dancer, choreographer. Their daughter Emma and youngest son Ralph are theatre producers in the West End, eldest son Harry is a writer and film director, whilst Eric is a musician and composer.

Jacquie has undertaken many restoration projects, including Ovingdean Grange which was their previous family home, formerly owned by comedian Max Miller and sold to actor/comedian Steve Coogan.

As noted in a Country Life editorial in 1958, Folkington has long had a close connection with the arts, a tradition that continues to this day. In the last decade Sir Tommy Steele, Sir Tim Rice, Elaine Paige, Dame Joanna Lumley, Sir Richard Stilgoe, Don Black, Sir Christopher Hampton, Dame Harriet Walter, Roy Hodgson, Lord Melvyn Bragg, Andrew Marr, Alexander Armstrong, Ruthie Henshall, Dame Arlene Phillips, Leanne Benjamin, Henry Blofeld, David Gower and Joe Stilgoe have all entertained in the Flint Halls. Regular events have been operatic concerts performed by English National Opera.

Harry & Jacquie Brünjes are very pleased to welcome you to Folkington Manor this evening.

Folkington Manor



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Introducing Sir Nicholas Coleridge CBE DL



© Mike Trow

Anyone who has read Sir Nicholas' excellent memoirs will understand why he is so often asked to speak on important occasions. A heady ride across a 30-year career successively as Editorial Director, Managing Director and President of the Conde Nast media group, including titles such as *Vogue*, *House & Garden*, and *Vanity Fair*.

Sir Nicholas is the only person ever to be awarded all four of the Publishing Industry's Lifetime Achievement Awards including the Mark Boxer Lifetime Achievement Award by the British Society of Magazine Editors and the Marcus Morris Lifetime Achievement Award.

Alongside his outstanding professional body of work, Sir Nicholas is an acclaimed author and Chairman. He is

currently the Chair of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Chair of the former HRH The Prince of Wales' Campaign for Wool and Chair of the Gilbert Trust for the Arts. He is also an ambassador for the Landmark Trust and a patron of the charity, Elephant Family. Sir Nicholas has also been Chair of the British Fashion Council and Chair of the Professional Publishers Association, alongside a wider portfolio of appointments including Co-Chairing last year's Platinum Jubilee Pageant for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the most outstanding of all the pageants in the late Queen's reign.

Most recently, His Majesty the King has appointed Sir Nicholas as the new Chair of Historic Royal Palaces as well as the next Provost of Eton College. A former pupil at Ashdown House and Eton College, Sir Nicholas will take up the post and be resident at Eton from September 2024. He will be the 43rd Provost since Eton was established.

Sir Nicholas lives in London and Worcestershire with his wife, Georgia, who joins us this evening, and they have four children. In 2019 Sir Nicholas commissioned a garden folly, a 46-foot writing tower by the architect Quinlan Terry. The folly won first prize at the 2021 Georgian Group Architectural Awards and the Craftsmanship Prize at the 2021 British Brick Awards.

We are delighted to welcome Sir Nicholas as our principal guest and speaker to the Sussex Heritage Trust Biennial Dinner at Folkington Manor.



News and Events

Sussex Heritage Trust is a registered charity established in 1977 to preserve, improve and encourage the appreciation of the architectural and natural landscape of Sussex. In 2023 we:

- Recognised and celebrated high quality conservation, restoration and new buildings with 37 Award winning and 18 Highly Commended projects at the Sussex Heritage Trust Awards.
- Funded bursaries for young people in building conservation courses at Weald and Downland Living Museum and West Dean College of Art and Conservation.
- Worked in partnership with the Heritage Crafts Association to fund endangered crafts in Sussex.
- Raised awareness of the importance of the public realm with the 'Peers of the Public Realm' campaign.
- Continued to advise and work on a number of conservation and heritage projects and campaigns.
- Organised events and visits for friends and supporters.



From left to right Sarah Burns, Pattern Maker; Endangered Crafts Fund Recipient; Sussex Heritage Trust Award Winners 2023

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday, 5th March 2024

Launch of Sussex Heritage Trust Awards
St Michael and All Angels, Berwick Church

Thursday, 9th May 2024

Private Tour of Gardens at Gravetye Manor

Wednesday 10th July 2024

Sussex Heritage Trust Awards
Lancing College Chapel

Why not become a friend and sign up for exclusive events, early booking and discounts. Go to www.sussexheritagetrust.org.uk for further details.

PROGRAMME

RECEPTION in FOLKINGTON MANOR

Serving canapes and Everflyht Brut NV

WELCOME in FLINT BARNES

Dr Harry Brünjes

GRACE

The Reverend Rupert Toovey DL

DINNER

Supported by NFU Mutual Chichester and Horsham

AFTER-DINNER SPEAKER

Sir Nicholas Coleridge CBE DL

AUCTION

The Reverend Rupert Toovey of Toovey's Fine Art & Antique Auctioneers

CLOSING REMARKS

The Rt Hon Lord Egremont DL
President

CARRIAGES

MENU

Beetroot Cured Smoked Salmon Salad

Horseradish whip, pea shoots and strawberry vinaigrette, red chard

Portobello Mushroom and Baked Golden Cross Goats Cheese

Sun blush apricots, roasted seeds, and fig syrup
(pre-ordered vegetarian option)

Artisan breads



Slow Braised Beef Feather Blade with Smoked Garlic Dauphinois

Tender slow cooked beef, dauphinois, heritage carrot puree, red onion

Cauliflower Steak with Cauliflower and Leek Cream

Rosemary sour dough crumb, poached grape tomatoes, peas
(pre-ordered vegetarian option)

Served with seasonal vegetables



Trio of Miniature Desserts

Pannacotta shot with mango puree and raspberry dust
Double chocolate brownie with salt caramel and clotted cream
Raspberry pavlova with Greek yogurt and berry puree

Coffee and Assorted Teas



Everflyht Brut NV
Cradle Valley Pinot Gris 2022
Edmond Rothschild St Emilion 2018

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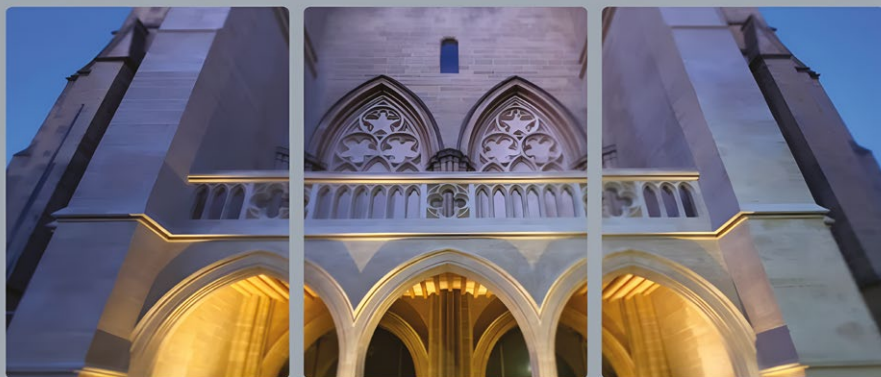
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Sussex Heritage Trust wishes to thank:

Dr Harry and Mrs Jacque Brünjes and all the team at Folkington Manor especially Bex Weller; Sir Nicholas and Lady Coleridge for joining us this evening.

Dinner Sponsor: Gaby Hardwicke

Solicitors is a leading Sussex law firm with offices in Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings. Our skilled and experienced team of solicitors provide a wide range of legal services for both business and individuals, including specialisms in real estate and rural and agricultural affairs. www.gabyhardwicke.co.uk

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And a heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors, friends, auction prize givers, donors and those who wish for their donation to remain anonymous.

Sussex Heritage Trust

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