

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



The first Parliaments of England, and subsequently of the House of Commons of England, of Great Britain and then of the United Kingdom, were composed of two members from each constituency. Indeed, a small number of these two-member seats survived until the 1950 general election, which was the first that returned members for only single-member seats.

Before the Reform Act of 1832 the electorates were not only small but among the boroughs they varied in composition. Unlike some small towns of the same size or even smaller, Battle never had an MP of its own under the old régime. Only the counties, and boroughs in possession of a royal charter, could boast such a privilege. Until the reform of 1832 the county of Sussex elected two MPs, as did each of the boroughs of Arundel, Bramber, Chichester, East Grinstead, Hastings, Horsham, Lewes, Midhurst, New Shoreham, Rye, Seaford, Steyning and Winchelsea.

As to the non-borough county, in fact it was inconvenient to have a single constituency, given the difficulty of journeying from many parts of the county to the county town of Chichester, and an informal agreement had been reached, rarely broken, that one member would come from the east and one from the west.

It was not until 1832 that the non-borough county was divided for electoral purposes into the two areas that in 1888 became the two administrative counties (the eastern half being rather larger than it is now, further changes having been made in 1974). In 1832 East Grinstead, Seaford and Winchelsea lost their independent borough status and for electoral purposes were included in the 'Eastern Sussex' constituency. Westward, Bramber and Steyning lost their seats and were included in 'Western Sussex'. Arundel was reduced to one member.

In the east at the same time Brighton was given (two) MPs for the first time and Rye was now to return only one rather than two; Hastings remained with two, as did Lewes. So between them the boroughs returned seven MPs whereas the non-borough eastern half of the county returned two.

Further changes took place as a result of the 1867 Reform Act, but in eastern Sussex the only representational change was that Lewes was now to return only one member. In 1885, after a further Reform Act, Hastings too was reduced to one member and both Lewes and Rye lost their independent representation. 'Eastern Sussex' was abolished and the area other than Brighton and Hastings was divided into three large, non-borough constituencies – East Grinstead, Lewes and Rye, and for electoral purposes the Battle district was part of Rye. The next major changes were in 1918, after further changes in electoral rights, but they did not affect the Battle district other than to reflect recent changes in borough boundaries.

It will therefore be seen that up to 1832 the (few) voters of the Battle area took part in elections for Sussex, from 1832 to 1884 in Eastern Sussex and from 1885 to 1918 in the Rye division. They continued in Rye until changes in the late 1940s, when some of the area was

joined to Hastings from the 1950 election; from 1955 it came back to Rye. From 1983 a new seat of Bexhill and Battle was used. There have of course been various minor changes to boundaries, with little relevance to Battle.

Before 1832 the magistrates prepared registers for each election based on the criteria set out for the seat concerned, and after 1832 on the criteria applied nationally. The registers were examined before each election by a revising barrister, who was empowered to judge whether a man's claim to vote could be sustained. The qualification for suffrage (for men: women did not have the right to vote for Parliament until 1918/29) was based on the property they owned or the rents they paid. This meant that until 1884 and to some extent later the suffrage reflected the powerbase of the lords of the manor and the better-off in the countryside. Even just before 1918 then nearly half of all adult men in the country were disenfranchised; by 'adult' then of course meant 'over 21 years of age'. The 1918 Act extending the suffrage to women contained a property clause as well as a minimum age of 30, though all men over 21 were to be registered – unless, of course, they were lunatics or members of the House of Lords (or both). It was 1929 before the two genders reached a theoretical equality. Even then, until a further Act of 1948, there were university seats (for which the electors by then would still have been overwhelmingly male) and the business vote (again an overwhelmingly male population) – by which someone could vote not only in their home constituency but, subject to some restrictions, in the constituency in which they worked.

Being elected an MP was in peacetime one of the duties of local magnates, along with being high sheriff or holding some other post of local or even national significance. The residences of these men can usually be identified, though some would have held land in many different places. Beyond them, and particularly when at times of sectarian strife, it is not always easy to see the areas with which the locally-elected members were associated in their non-parliamentary lives, given the present anonymity of some of their names and the wide application of some of the others. Each former MP is briefly considered where there is local or other interesting information about him.

Up to 1832 the MPs are all for the county of Sussex (less, of course, any boroughs). A blank means that the returns are missing. With the exception of the difficult 1640-60 period, where more than two members are listed after an election it means that the later one was returned at a by-election. Dates are given where known; until 1918 general elections were held within a given period rather than on a single day.

The information given is drawn from various sources, and in some cases they differ and a choice has had to be made. It may be noted that the Sackville MPs have been given additional information. This is because a branch of the family owned Hancox at Whatlington for a long time, but it is not clear what connection with Hancox was enjoyed by each MP. It may also be noted that until 1925 a member accepting a cabinet post had to resubmit himself for re-election.

Assignment to a political party is problematic and some notes on party allegiances will be found after the tables below.

SUSSEX

Two members to be returned

1334	Roger Hussey
1344	Roger Hussey
1353	Andrew Peverell
1356	Andrew Peverell
1361	Andrew Peverell
1366	Andrew Peverell
1373	Andrew Peverell
1377 (Oct)	Nicholas Wilcombe
1378	Sir Edmund Fitzherbert Fitzherbert (1338-93) was a Dorset man, knighted in 1372, who came to Ewhurst in about 1378. As with all landed men he held a number of senior local offices in Dorset, Somerset and Sussex. He inherited large properties in Sussex in 1375. He served in the navy against the French in 1377 and later.
1381	Sir William Waleys
1382 (May)	Sir Edmund Fitzherbert Sir William Waleys
1383 (Feb)	Sir William Waleys
1386	Sir Edmund Fitzherbert Sir Edward Dallingridge Dallingridge (c1346-1393) held many offices in Sussex and elsewhere, including membership of Richard II's Council and, briefly, ambassador to France. He was involved in the defence of Sussex against French attacks. The Dallingridge family appears to have had a rapid rise to wealth, due to advantageous marriages; it was Edward's wife who brought Bodiam into the family. Few men could avoid involvement in the difficult politics of the time and he fell out with John of Gaunt, then the most powerful man in England. He served time briefly in prison but was released to fortify Rye and Winchelsea against the French in 1385; this led to his being licensed to crenellate Bodiam Castle.
1388 (Feb)	Sir William Waleys Sir Edward Dallingridge
1388 (Sept)	Nicholas Wilcombe Robert Ore
1390 (Jan)	Sir William Percy Thomas Jardyn
1390 (Nov)	Sir William Percy Sir William Waleys
1391	Sir William Percy Robert Tauk
1393	Sir William Percy John Broke
1394	Sir William Percy Sir Thomas Sackville (the second) Sir Thomas Sackville bore a name that is rich in history, and it is well-remembered in Sussex though now best-known in connection with Knole by Sevenoaks. According to one source: The Sackville family first came to Withyham in 1068 as William the Conqueror had left a number of supporters in Normandy to keep order. One of these supporters was Herbrand de Sauqueville. They were granted the manor at Buckhurst following a marriage to the heiress of Buckhurst, Ela de Dene. The family lived here until the time of Elizabeth I, who was in fact a cousin of Thomas Sackville through her mother's family, the Boleyns of Hever. Such a connection at court allowed Thomas to amass a considerable fortune, making him able to draw up plans for a new, far more elaborate mansion on the Buckhurst estate than the then existing house. The site that was chosen for the project was formerly used as a hunting box for the popular sport of deer coursing and despite being granted the vast

palace at Knole by the Queen, Sir Thomas continued with his plans for Buckhurst. He also found himself being elevated to Lord Buckhurst and then to Earl of Dorset, although his descendants were to outrank him by becoming dukes.

Clearly Sir Thomas, an MP at the end of the fourteenth century) was a scion of this Herbrand. He was in fact an illegitimate son of Sir Andrew Sackville (c1306-1360), who may have been MP for Sussex, and he married Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Dallingridge of Bodiam. The use of the suffix *the second* refers to a distant cousin, of Fawley in Hampshire, who may have had a better claim to the Sackville estates than had the MP. Thomas seemed not to have suffered under the stigma of bastardy, which may have been lifted by the knowledge that he was indeed his father Andrew's son and had inherited a very considerable estate. He played a minor part in the difficulties attending the end of Richard II and the accession by conquest of Henry IV, but managed to keep his lands and position. He died in 1432. His best-known descendants lived at Knole but the family had a large Sussex property.

1395	Hugh Quecche Sir Thomas Sackville (the second)
1397 (Jan)	Sir William Percy John Ashburnham Ashburnham (died 1417) was of the family that occupied Ashburnham Place (not without some gaps) up to the 1950s. His father was an improvident man who had to lease out the property, and his great-uncle had been executed for treason, which is far from unusual in families of the time. Nevertheless the future MP Ashburnham was a loyal supporter of Richard II and could wield influence at court. This did not halt his progress under Henry IV, when he was again sheriff. Unfortunately his accounts were not well kept and posthumous lawsuits followed in respect of his properties and his debts.
1397 (Sept)	Sir Thomas Sackville (the second) John Ashburnham
1399	John Pelham John Preston
1401	(Sir) John Pelham Sir Henry Hussey
1402	Sir John Dallingridge Dallingridge (died 1408) was son of Sir Edward, of Bodiam. He served with his father in naval expeditions against France and even fought in what is now Lithuania; he was then knighted. However, his father's various difficulties were visited upon him and was suspected of disloyalty to the king. He was indeed associated with Bolingbroke, and on the latter's accession in 1399 became close to the crown. He was brother-in-law to Sir Thomas Sackville the second. Sir Henry Hussey
1404 (Jan)	(Sir) John Pelham Robert Lewknor
1404 (Oct)	Sir John Dallingridge (Sir) John Pelham
1406	Sir John Dallingridge (Sir) John Pelham
1407	Sir John Dallingridge (Sir) John Pelham
1410	
1411	
1413 (Feb)	
1413 (May)	Richard Wayville Richard Wakehurst

1414 (Apr)	William Bramshott Thomas St Cler
1414 (Nov)	Richard Wayville John Babelake
1415	Richard Styuecle Sir Roger Fiennes
1416 (Oct)	
1417	John Halle (the Second) Richard Styuecle
1419	Richard Bannebury Richard Bitterley
1420	William Ryman Ralph Radermylde
1421 (May)	William Ryman John Halle (the Second)
1421 (Dec)	Ralph Radermylde Richard Bitterley

The work of identifying the members between 1421 and 1442 is still in hand.

1442	Sir Roger Fiennes
1445	Sir Roger Fiennes
1449	John Wood
1450	Robert Poynings
1456	Nicholas Hussey

The work of identifying the members between 1456 and 1491 is still in hand.

1491	Sir David Owen
1495	Edmund Dudley

The work of identifying the members between 1510 and 1529 is still in hand.

1529	Sir John Gage Sir Richard Shirley
1536	
1539	Sir John Gage Sir William Goring
1542	? Sir John Gage
1545	? Sir John Gage
1547	Sir William Goring John Palmer
1553 (Mar)	?Sir Richard Sackville Sackville was another of the family described above (see 1395). Born earlier than 1507 and closely related to the Boleyns, he was educated at Cambridge (probably) and the Inner Temple and was knighted by Edward VI in 1549. By then he had already been MP for Chichester. He held numerous public offices under Edward, Mary and Elizabeth. Although he had his differences with Mary, presumably religious, she still used his services, and Elizabeth the more so. He died in 1566, a considerable landowner – he had been cut out of his father’s will but had successfully contested it – and a wealthy man. It was probably this Sackville who owned

the predecessor house on the site that was to become Langton House on the Abbey Green at Battle. First cousin of Anne Boleyn. Also elected for Chichester 1547 and Portsmouth 1554.

1553 (Oct)	John Caryll Also elected for Taunton 1547 and Lancaster 1553. John Covert Also elected for New Shoreham 1529.
1554 (Apr)	Sir Robert Oxenbridge Oxenbridge was one of the family that built Brede Place and was a loyal servant of both Queen Mary and the then Princess Elizabeth. He was constable of Pevensey Castle and later the Tower of London. He had also been sheriff of Sussex. But he was a staunch Catholic and fell out of Elizabeth's favour when she became Queen. He later moved to Hampshire, leaving Brede to a relative. He died in 1574. Also elected for East Grinstead 1553. Sir Thomas Palmer
1554 (Nov)	John Covert John Ashburnham Another loyal Catholic, and one of the family of Ashburnham Place and related to the Sackvilles by marriage. Born probably before 1528, he died in 1563. His political and other public career was limited to Mary's reign (1553-58), during which he was sheriff of Sussex.
1555	Sir Robert Oxenbridge John Caryll
1558	Sir Nicholas Pelham Also elected for Arundel 1547. Sir Robert Oxenbridge
1559 (Jan)	Sir Richard Sackville John Caryll
1562/3	Sir Richard Sackville William Dawtrey
1566	John Apsley <i>vice</i> Sackville, deceased Also elected for Steyning 1589.
1571	John Pelham Thomas Palmer Also elected for Arundel, 1553 and 1553.
1572	John Jeffrey Also elected for Clitheroe 1563 and East Grinstead 1571. Thomas Shirley Also elected for Steyning 1589.
1581 (7 Jan)	Walter Covert <i>vice</i> Jeffrey, deceased Also elected for Newport juxta Launceston 1584 and Petersfield 1593.
1584	Robert Sackville Sackville was part of the family already described above. He was made MP very young (born in 1561) and with a brief intermission would remain in the Commons until his elevation as Baron Buckhurst in 1609, closely followed by his succession to his father's earldom of Dorset and his own death. He was active in committee work in the Commons. (Sir) Thomas Shirley
1586	Walter Covert Thomas Pelham Also elected for Lewes 1584.
1588 (3 Oct)	(Sir) Thomas Palmer Henry Neville Also elected for New Windsor 1584, 1586, 1597, Liskeard 1597, and Berkshire 1604 and 1614.
1593	Robert Sackville Also elected for Lewes 1589. (Sir) Thomas Shirley
1597 (22 Sept)	Robert Sackville Sir Nicholas Parker

1601 (15 Oc)	Charles Howard (the second) Also elected for Bletchingley 1597, Surrey 1597 and New Shoreham 1614. Robert Sackville
1604 (1 Mar)	Robert Sackville Sir Charles Howard
1609 (2 Nov)	Henry Carey <i>vice</i> Sackville, called to the Upper House Also elected for Hertfordshire 1614.
1614 (Mar)	Sir Walter Covert Sampson Lennard Also elected for Launceston 1571, Bramber 1584, St Mawes 1586, Chrisrchurch 1889, St Germans 1593, Rye 1597 and Liskeard 1601.
1620 (14 Dec)	Sir Edward Sackville Sir Edward (1590-1652) was a son of Robert Sackville, above. Somewhat wild as a young man, he nevertheless won the support of James I/VI and was to hold a large number of offices, at first only in Sussex but later in London and Middlesex. He proved an eloquent and frequent speaker in Parliament if somewhat erratic in his attendance. The great issue of the day was that of monopolies: the king, short of money, had established monopoly rights to certain things – such as the licensing of public houses – and sold them to individuals for his and their profit. Sackville strongly opposed this practice, at least where his own family was not involved in it. Despite, or perhaps because of, his independence of mind he remained a strong if moderate royalist throughout the civil war. He does not seem to have been deprived of any of his extensive property by the new republican regime. He was at Christ Church, Oxford. Awarded the KB in 1616, he was at the Battle of the White Mountain by Prague in 1820, ambassador to Louis XIII 1621, Governor of Bermuda Island Company 1623, commissioner for planting Virginia 1631 and 1634, Lord Chamberlain to the Queen 1628, and Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty 1628. He assisted in draining Lincolnshire 1631. Commissioner of Regency 1640 and 1641. He was at the battle of Edgehill in 1642, Commissioner of the royal treasury 1643, Lord Chamberlain of the household 1644-46 and Keeper of Privy Seal and president of council 1644. KG 1625. Christopher Neville Also elected for Lewes 1614 and 1624,
1624 (5 Feb)	Algernon Percy, Lord Percy Also elected for Chichester 1625 and 1626. Thomas Pelham Also elected for East Grinstead 1621.
1625 (28 Apr)	(Sir) Thomas Pelham Sir John Shurley Also elected for East Grinstead 1593, Steyning 1597 and Bramber 1604.
1626 (2 Feb)	Sir Walter Covert Sir Alexander Temple
1628 (28 Fb)	Richard Lewknor Also elected for Midhurst 1621, 1624, 1625 and 1626. Sir William Goring

Parliament was dissolved in 1629 and it met again only in 1640. Work continues on the somewhat confused state of the Commons between 1640 and 1660. Some MPs withdrew from the Westminster Parliament to work with the King in the 'Oxford Parliament' (the records of which were later burnt), and of these some returned to Westminster. Some were expelled from Westminster, including men who had not gone to Oxford. What follows is not confirmed as a true or full record. The numbers of men apparently elected is clearly excessive.

1640	Sir Thomas Pelham Bt Anthony Stapley
1653 (Barebones)	Anthony Stapley Stapley was not a close local but is interesting because he was a regicide – one of those who passed the death sentence on Charles I. He escaped justice by dying in 1655, five years before

the restoration of the monarchy.

Stapley was born at Framfield in 1590, of a long-standing landed family, and was elected for New Shoreham in 1624 and for Lewes in 1628, though there is no evidence of his having been an active parliamentarian. However, he played a prominent role in local affairs. His adherence to the parliamentary cause may well have derived from his puritan convictions and his objections to the high church character of Charles and his advisers, let alone to the Queen's Catholicism. In the civil war he was governor of Chichester and in 1649 signed the King's death warrant. He was buried at Patcham, and there is no report of his body having been disinterred and mutilated after the Restoration. Perhaps only wisely, his family disowned him: his son John was a Member later but repudiated his father in 1657.

Stapley is a good example of how families were split in their allegiances. His wife was the sister of Lord Goring, a noted Cavalier commander.

1654 First Protectorate	Sir John Fagg Fagg was a regicide: he had taken part in the king's trial and had signed his death warrant. He would have qualified for execution but was one of those instrumental in bringing Charles II back to his throne and was pardoned. He later became Father of the House. Also elected for Steyning 1660, 1661, 1679, 1685, 1689, 1690, 1695, 1698 and 1701.
	John Stapley Sir John Pelham Sir Herbert Springet Francis, Lord Dacres William Spence Nathaniel Studeley Herbert Morley Also elected for Lewes 1640 and Rye 1660 and 1661. Sir Thomas Pelham
1656	Samuel Gott Gott (1614-71) was a Londoner, son of a prosperous ironmonger, who was at St Catherine's College, Cambridge and then Grays Inn. By 1643 he was in Sussex, and in that year married Joan Farndon of Sedlescombe, a co-heiress. He was elected for Winchelsea in 1645, Sussex in 1656, Hastings in 1659 and Winchelsea again in 1660. A Presbyterian, he was a strong supporter of the parliamentary cause in the civil war and was active in enforcing the ideology of the Commonwealth, though it appears that he was moderate by the standards of the times. His religious views remained severe and in 1650 he wrote a book <i>An essay on the true happiness of Man</i> , the writing of which he regarded as 'an antidote to idleness'. Gott was among those who urged Oliver Cromwell to accept the crown. The fact that he was not among the regicides allowed him to continue a prosperous life after the Restoration, and although he was interested in remaining in Parliament in 1660 he did not pursue the matter. He lived at Battle, in what is now Langton House, probably acquired in 1653 when his father-in-law Peter Farnden died. His son Peter was elected for Sussex in 1708. Gott was buried at Battle. John Stapley Sir John Fagg Sir John Pelham Also elected for Lewes 1640 and Rye 1660 and 1661. Sir Herbert Springet Sir George Courthope Sir Thomas Rivers
1659 Second Protectorate	Herbert Morley Sir John Fagg
1660 Third Protectorate	Sir John Fagg Sir Henry Goring Bt Also elected for Steyning 1661 and 1679.
1661 (c Apr)	Sir John Pelham Bt John Ashburnham Ashburnham (c1603-71) was another of the family of Ashburnham Place. His public and private lives were dominated by the struggles between royalist and parliamentarian, in which

he loyally supported the King and paid a price for doing so. In 1628-42 he was Charles I's gentleman of the bedchamber and therefore close to him and later held higher offices in royalist circles. He was an active member of the royalist parliament that sat at Oxford. After the King's execution he might have lost his estates but paid an enormous fine to keep them, but was later imprisoned. In 1661 he was back at the court of the new king Charles II. Re-elected to Parliament, he cannot have been the only member who took bribes to support business men and had to leave the Commons. It was said of him: 'I do not find that he is much pitied, being generally blamed for loving money too well, and indeed there was scarce anything of profit stirring at Court or elsewhere wherein he would not get an interest'. He stayed with the King, however. [Also elected for Hastings 1628 and 1640.](#)

1667 (19 Dc) Sir William Morley *vice* Ashburnham, discharged from sitting
Also elected for Midhurst 1679, 1685, 1689, 1690, 1695 and 1698.

1679 (6 Feb) Sir John Pelham Bt
John Lewknor (the second)
Also elected for Midhurst 1679, 1685, 1689, 1690, 1695, 1698, 1701 and 1702.

1679 (21 Aug) Sir John Pelham Bt
Sir Nicholas Pelham
Sir Nicholas (c1650-1739), half-brother of Sir Thomas, the baronet of Halland, played only a small part in Parliament. He represented other seats in the county when not sitting for the county itself. He lived at Catsfield Place.
Also elected for Seaford 1671 and 1689, and Lewes 1702 and 1726.
(Sir) John Fagg (the elder)

From now on, the names of unsuccessful candidates are known and are given in italics.

1681 (3 Mar) Sir William Thomas Bt
Also elected for Seaford 1661, 1679, 1685, 1701, 1702 and 1705.
(Sir) John Fagg

1685 (26 Mar) (Sir) Henry Goring
Sir Thomas Dyke Bt

1689 (17 Jan) Sir John Pelham Bt
Sir William Thomas Bt

1690 (20 Feb) Sir John Pelham Bt
Sir William Thomas Bt

1695 (14 Nov) Sir John Pelham Bt
Sir William Thomas Bt
Robert Orme

1698 (25 Aug) Sir William Thomas Bt
Robert Orme
(Sir) John Fagg Bt

1701 (9 Jan) Henry Lumley
Also elected for Arundel 1713 and 1715.
John Miller
Also elected for Chichester 1698, 1701 and 1710.

Figures below record the known number of votes cast for each candidate, where opposed. Majorities are calculated between the lower of the two elected candidates and the higher of any defeated candidates.

1701 (11 Dec)	Sir Henry Peachey	859
	Also elected for Midhurst 1736.	
	Sir William Thomas Bt	802
	<i>Henry Lumley</i>	600
	<i>Robert Orme</i>	451
	<i>Maj</i>	149

1702 (23 July)	Thomas Pelham Henry Lumley	
1705 (24 May)	John Morley Trevor	1867
	Sir George Parker	1416
Also elected for Lewes 1712.		
	<i>Sir Henry Peachey</i>	1397
	<i>Henry Lumley</i>	895
	<i>Maj</i>	19
1708 (20 May)	Sir Henry Peachey	1307
	Peter Gott	835
Gott (1653-1712) was son of Samuel, who had been elected for Sussex in 1656. He had previously represented Hastings and in 1710 would represent Lewes. He married his cousin Martha Western, also of an ironmongering family with considerable land interest in Sussex. He was not a particularly active MP, preferring to continue his responsibility for iron, and he was a director of the Bank of England. He bought Stanmer House just east of Brighton, later to be the seat of the Pelham earls of Chichester. It appears that he hanged himself, for reasons unknown. His son Samuel, of Stanmer, also became an MP.		
	<i>Sir George Parker Bt</i>	621
	<i>Maj</i>	214
1710 (5 Oct)	Sir George Parker Bt	1512
	Charles Eversfield	1499
	<i>Sir Nicholas Pelham</i>	1067
	<i>Sir Henry Peachey</i>	1048
	<i>Maj</i>	432
1712 (7 Aug)	Eversfield re-elected after appointment to office	
1713 (3 Sept)	Henry Champion	1522
Also elected for East Grinstead 1708 and Bossiney 1710.		
	John Fuller	1364
John Fuller (1680-1745) was the first of his family to enter Parliament. He was followed by two of his sons and a grandson. His father had been an ironfounder at Waldron, and John successfully managed and enlarged the business; he topped this by marrying the co-heiress to a large Jamaican plantation. He lived at Brightling Park. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, though it is unclear why – unless, as the Society's website hints, it was as a result of generous gifts to it.		
	<i>James Butler</i>	1308
	<i>John Morley Trevor</i>	1237
	<i>Maj</i>	52
1715 (17 Feb)	James Butler	2142
	Spencer Compton	2066
Also elected for Eye 1698 and East Grinstead 1713.		
	<i>Charles Eversfield</i>	1224
	<i>Bertram Ashburnham</i>	1105
	<i>Maj</i>	842
1722 (5 Apr)	Spencer Compton	
	Henry Pelham	
Also elected for Seaford 1717.		
1724 (16 Apr)	Pelham re-elected after appointment to office	
1727 (17 Aug)	Sir Spencer Compton	
Also elected for Eye 1698 and East Grinstead 1713.		
	Henry Pelham	
1728 (22 Feb)	James Butler <i>vice</i> Compton, called to the Upper House	
Also elected for Arundel 1705.		
1730 (21 May)	Pelham re-elected after appointment to office	
1734 (9 May)	Henry Pelham	2271
	James Butler	2053

	<i>Sir Cecil Bishopp</i>	1704
	<i>John Fuller</i>	1581
	<i>Maj</i>	349
1741 (7 May)	Henry Pelham James Butler	
1742 (14 Jan)	Charles Sackville, later earl of Middlesex, <i>vice</i> Butler, deceased Also elected for East Grinstead 1734 and 1761, and Old Sarum 1747.	
1743 (15 Dec)	Pelham re-elected after appointment to office	
1744 (12 Jan)	Sackville re-elected after appointment to office	
1747 (6 July)	Henry Pelham John Butler Also elected for East Grinstead 1742.	
1754 (2 May)	Thomas Pelham Also elected for Rye 1749. John Butler	
1761 (6 Apr)	Thomas Pelham John Butler	
1765 (26 Dec)	Pelham re-elected after appointment to office	
1767 (3 Feb)	Lord George Henry Lennox <i>vice</i> Butler, deceased Also elected for Chichester 1761.	
1768 (19 Mar)	Lord George Henry Lennox Thomas Pelham	
1768 (29 Mar)	Richard Harcourt <i>vice</i> Pelham, called to the Upper House	
1774 (20 Oct)	Lord George Henry Lennox Sir Thomas Spencer Wilson <i>Sir James Peachey</i> <i>Maj</i>	3583 1957 1855 102
1780 (14 Sept)	Lord George Henry Lennox Thomas Pelham	
1782 (25 Apr)	Pelham re-elected after appointment to office	
1784 (22 Apr)	Lord George Henry Lennox Thomas Pelham	
1790 (25 June)	Hon. Thomas Pelham Charles Lennox	
1796 (3 June)	Hon. Thomas Pelham Charles Lennox	
1801 (16 July)	John Fuller <i>vice</i> Pelham, called to the Upper House Fuller (c1756-1834) was the grandson of John Fuller, MP 1713-15, and inherited his wealth, enlarging the estate at Brightling whenever he could. He is better described elsewhere on this website. He was a frequent speaker in the Commons, voicing his very independent views, often on colonial matters and rarely consistently on the side either of Pitt or of Fox. He was strongly against abolishing the slave trade, which may be understandable given that much of his wealth derived from slavery. Indeed, most of his views seem to us today to be reactionary. He was suspended after an argument about the hearing into the disastrous Walcheren expedition which led to unparliamentary language, and loudly contested the Speaker's right to remove him. That did not stop his active participation, after due apology. Also elected for Southampton 1780.	
1802 (14 July)	Charles Lennox John Fuller	
1806 (10 Nov)	Charles Lennox John Fuller	

1807 (29 Jan)	Hon. Charles William Wyndham <i>vice</i> Lennox, called to the Upper House Also elected for Midhurst 1790 and New Shoreham 1795.	
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From this point unopposed returns are noted as such.

1807 (29 May)	Hon. Charles William Wyndham John Fuller <i>Walden Michael Sergison</i>	4333 2530 2478
	<i>Maj</i>	<i>52</i>
1812 (14 Oct)	Sir Godfrey Webster Bt Webster (1789-1836) was the son of the fourth baronet, also, Godfrey (1748-1800). The 1812 MP was the last MP from this family. The first baronet, Thomas (1677-1751) sat for Colchester three times between 1705 and 1727. His son, the second baronet Sir Whistler Webster (1699-1779) was MP for East Grinstead in 1754, and his nephew Sir Godfrey Webster (1748-1800) was sometime MP for Seaford and then for Wareham. The 1812 Godfrey succeeded to the title on his father's suicide in 1800. He was elected in 1812 with the support of the great of the county, in the belief that he would support the reactionary government of Lord Liverpool. This turned out not to be the case: he was a radical not afraid to voice his opinions on his infrequent visits to the Commons (being diverted by gaming interests elsewhere, among other things, which did no good to the Webster family's fortunes). But he still won in 1818. In 1820 the great landowners were particularly disturbed by his opposition to the government's suppression of organised labour. This time they got their act in order, though not without considerable difficulty in agreeing two candidatures. Webster tried again in 1826 but after a bitter contest the family's parliamentary career was over. Walter Burrell	<i>unop</i>
1818 (24 June)	Sir Godfrey Webster Bt Walter Burrell <i>Edward Burtenshaw Sugden</i>	267 171 122
	<i>Maj</i>	<i>49</i>
1820 (22 Mar)	Walter Burrell Edward Jeremiah Curteis <i>Charles Compton Cavendish</i>	2419 2258 1867
	<i>Maj</i>	<i>391</i>
1826 (1 July)	Walter Burrell Edward Jeremiah Curteis <i>Sir Godfrey Webster Bt</i>	2116 2048 1188
	<i>Maj</i>	<i>60</i>
1830 (11 Aug)	Walter Burrell Herbert Barrett Curteis	<i>unop</i> <i>unop</i>
1831 (6 May)	Herbert Barrett Curteis Curteis was the son of Edward, MP, who died in 1831, and considerably more liberal than his father, who had been a strong supporter of the repressive governments after 1811. He favoured parliamentary reform and the abolition of slavery. His family were based at Peasmarsh, and he later (and his son even later) sat for Rye. Also elected for Eastern Sussex 1832 and Rye 1841. Lord John George Lennox	<i>unop</i> <i>unop</i>
	Also elected for Western Sussex 1832.	<i>unop</i>

EASTERN SUSSEX

Two members to be returned

1832	Hon Charles Cavendish	Whig	2388
	Herbert Barrett Curteis	Whig	1941
	<i>George Darby</i>	Tory	668
			<i>Maj</i>
			<i>1273</i>
1835	Hon Charles Cavendish		<i>unop</i>
	Cavendish (1793-1863) was a grandson of the fourth Duke of Devonshire. The duke's family's connection with Sussex began with the 1782 marriage that subsequently brought lands in and around Eastbourne to them. Charles had been an MP in the pre-reform Parliament and after 1851 was MP for other seats; he was made Baron Chesham in 1858. Also elected for Aylesbury 1814, Newtown (IOW) 1821, Yarmouth (IOW) 1831, East Surrey 1832, Youghal 1841 and Buckinghamshire 1847.		
	Herbert Barrett Curteis		<i>unop</i>
1837	George Darby	Tory	2256
	George Darby (1796-1878) was the great-grandson of Edward Curteis, above. His was a landed family based in Ireland; a barrister, he lived at Marklye at Rushlake Green.		
	Hon Charles Cavendish	Whig	1793
	<i>Augustus Elliott Fuller</i>	Tory	1749
	Augustus Fuller (1777-1857) was the cousin of John Fuller (above); he inherited Brightling Park on John's death in 1834. He also owned Bodiam Castle, bought by a Fuller ancestor in 1757.		
	<i>Herbert Barrett Curteis</i>	Whig	1619
			<i>Maj</i>
			<i>44</i>
1841	George Darby	Tory	2398
	Augustus Elliott Fuller	Tory	2367
	<i>John V Shelley</i>	Whig	995
	John Villiers Shelley (1808-67) is sometimes described as a Tory. He was an MP in the pre-Reform Parliament and was elected for Westminster in 1852 and 1859. He inherited the Shelley baronetcy of Michelgrove in 1852. He was not a close relative of the poet Percy Shelley.		
			<i>Maj</i>
			<i>1372</i>
1846 (3 Feb)	Charles Hay Frewen	Whig	<i>unop</i>
	Charles Frewen was of the Brickwall side of the Frewens rather than of Brede Place. <i>In place of Darby.</i>		
1847	Augustus Elliott Fuller	Tory	<i>unop</i>
	Charles Hay Frewen	Whig	<i>unop</i>
1852	Augustus Elliott Fuller	Tory	2155
	Charles Hay Frewen	Whig	1974
	Frewen was a combative man who later stood for Parliament several times in Leicestershire and Rutland, without success, each time being defeated by the local grandee.		
	<i>John George Dodson</i>	Whig	1637
			<i>Maj</i>
			<i>337</i>
1857 (7 March)	Viscount Pevensey	Tory	2302
	<i>John George Dodson</i>	Whig	2234



Dodson (1825-97) was from Hurstpierpoint. He was the last Whig/Liberal MP for the district and thus the end of a long tradition. Since then only the surprise result in 1903 (see below) has interrupted the line of Conservative representatives.

Dodson was a barrister like his father, a wealthy man who on his death in 1858 left a little under £45,000. He was well-regarded within the Liberal Party, being appointed Financial Secretary to the Treasury under Gladstone and made a Privy Councillor; he was then chairman of committees and Deputy Speaker of the


John George Dobson

Commons. It was presumably in fear of defeat that he left the Sussex constituency to be elected for Chester in 1874 (and again in 1880 though that election was voided on petition) to represent Chester and then, again in 1880, Scarborough. In this later phase he was President of the Local Government Board and in the Cabinet, then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. On his retirement from the Commons in 1884 he was elevated to the peerage as Lord Monk Bretton. When the Irish Home Rule crisis split the Liberal Party in 1886 he chose to follow Chamberlain into the Liberal Unionists. He appears to have been the only 'Battle' MP to have served in the Cabinet in modern times; Sir Edward Boyle, of Salehurst, was a Cabinet minister but did not represent a Sussex constituency.

			<i>Maj</i>	68
1857	John George Dodson	Whig		2524
	Viscount Pevensey	C		2447
	Pevensey (1832-1909), was the last earl of Sheffield of Sheffield Park, succeeding his father in 1876. He is best remembered today for his love of cricket and his name lives on in the Sheffield Shield which he donated, competed for by the six Australian state cricket teams.			
	<i>Lord Edward Cavendish</i>	Whig		2286
	<i>Augustus Elliott Fuller</i>	C		2216
			<i>Maj</i>	161
1859	John George Dodson	L		<i>unop</i>
	Viscount Pevensey	C		<i>unop</i>
1865	John George Dodson	L		2821
	Lord Edward Cavendish	L		2647
Cavendish (1832-91) was a son of the duke of Devonshire and brother of the marquess of Hartington (later duke) and of Frederick, murdered by Fenians in Phoenix Park, Dublin. He was elected for West Derbyshire in 1868, 1874, 1885 and 1886, the last time as a Liberal Unionist.				
	<i>W W Burrell</i>	C		2463
	<i>Hon R C E Abbot</i>	C		2316
			<i>Maj</i>	174
1868	John George Dodson	L		3611
	George Burrow Gregory	C		3581
His dates were 1813-92. Also elected for East Grinstead 1885.				
	<i>Montagu David Scott</i>	C		3560
	<i>Lord Edward Cavendish</i>	L		3470
			<i>Maj</i>	30
1874	George Burrow Gregory	C		<i>unop</i>
	Montagu David Scott	C		<i>unop</i>
1880	George Burrow Gregory	C		4526
	Montagu David Scott	C		4396
	<i>A Donovan</i>	L		2982
	<i>John Pearson QC</i>	L		3863
			<i>Maj</i>	1414

SUSSEX EAST or RYE division

One member to be returned

1885	Col Arthur Montagu Brookfield	C	4526
	Brookfield had an interesting career, Born in 1853, he was educated at Rugby and Cambridge, and passed out from Sandhurst; he was in the army from 1873 to 1880 and returned to it by serving in the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa from 1900. In 1903 he was appointed British Consul at Danzig, Germany, and in 1911 transferred to Savannah, USA. He retired in 1923 and died in 1940.		
	<i>Frederick Andrew Inderwick QC</i>	L	4303
		<i>Maj</i>	223
1886	Col A M Brookfield	C	4592
	<i>G J de Reuter</i>	L	3094
		<i>Maj</i>	1498
1892	Col A M Brookfield	C	4698
	<i>G M Ball</i>	L	3988
			711
1895	Col A M Brookfield	C	<i>unop</i>
1900	Col A M Brookfield	C	5376
	<i>Dr Charles Frederick Hutchinson</i>	L	2887
		<i>Maj</i>	2489
	Hutchinson lived at Mayfield, and his family are of interest. Like his father he was a physician; he was trained at Edinburgh with experience in Vienna, Berlin and Paris, and practised for a time at Monte Carlo. His was an old Nottinghamshire family, and an ancestor had been an officer of the parliamentary army in the civil war, instrumental in preventing the Royalists from taking Nottingham, with its major store of gunpowder. The by-election result of 1903 must have been a surprise – his opponent was of a local family of distinction (see below). Even more surprising, perhaps, was that Hutchinson lost the seat in 1906 at the time of the Liberal landslide. Hutchinson was knighted and died in 1907 at the age of 57. His son St John contested the seat unsuccessfully at both the 1910 elections; he was later a member of the London County Council and unsuccessfully contested the Isle of Wight in 1929. His son Jeremy, later Lord Hutchinson of Lullingston, was a noted barrister born in 1915 who died as recently as 2017.		
1903 (17 Mar)	Dr C F Hutchinson	L	4910
	<i>Edward Boyle QC</i>	C	4376
		<i>Maj</i>	534
	Edward Boyle QC (1848-1909) had started professional life as an architect but was later called to the bar where he made a successful career. He had fought Hastings in 1900 and after his defeat at Rye was selected for Taunton, which he represented until shortly before his early death three years later. In 1904 he was given a baronetcy – Sir Edward Boyle of Ockham, Salehurst. Ockham is a large house near the railway east of the A21. His grandson, also Sir Edward, was a distinguished politician (see text near end).		
1906	Col George Loyd Courthope	C	6122
	 Courthope (1877-1955) deserves mention here because he was the longest-serving member recorded in this account: 39 years. He was a quiet, loyal politician of the old county style – so loyal that in the famous Commons debate of May 1940 he strongly supported Prime Minister Chamberlain and expressed the hope that he would remain in office. He had fought in the First World War as a Captain in 5th Battalion, The Royal Sussex; he was wounded, mentioned in despatches and awarded the Military Cross. In 1925 he was awarded a baronetcy and in 1945, on his retirement from the Commons, a barony, both of Whiligh, near Ticehurst, where his family had long been established. A family member was an MP for the county in the seventeenth century.		
	<i>Dr C F Hutchinson</i>	L	4964
		<i>Maj</i>	1158

1910 (Jan)	Col G L Courthope	C	7352
	<i>St John Hutchinson</i>	L	4750
		<i>Maj</i>	2602
1910 (Dec)	Col G L Courthope	C	6673
	<i>St John Hutchinson</i>	L	4461
		<i>Maj</i>	2212

RYE

One member to be returned

1918 (14 Dec)	Col G L Courthope	C	10378
	<i>George Ellis</i>	L	4034
		<i>Maj</i>	6344
1922 (15 Nov)	Col G L Courthope	C	10122
	<i>George Ellis</i>	L	7485
		<i>Maj</i>	3434
1923 (6 Dec)	Col G L Courthope	C	11167
	<i>George Ellis</i>	L	9651
		<i>Maj</i>	1516
1924 (29 Oct)	Col G L Courthope	C	14871
	<i>George Ellis</i>	L	7289
		<i>Maj</i>	7582
1929 (30 May)	Col Sir G L Courthope	C	18061
	<i>William Osborn</i>	L	10198
	<i>George A Greenwood</i>	Lab	3505
		<i>Maj</i>	7863
1931(27 Oct)	Col Sir G L Courthope	C	<i>unop</i>
1935 (14 Nov)	Col Sir G L Courthope	C	22064
	<i>Dorothy Frances Osborn</i>	L	9162
		<i>Maj</i>	13442
1945 (5 July)	W N Cuthbert	C	19701
	William Cuthbert (1890-1960) was an alderman and mayor of Bexhill during the second world war. On redistribution, in 1950 he became MP for Arundel and Shoreham, retiring in 1954.		
	<i>H Simmons</i>	Lab	7414
	<i>Capt. R Ogden</i>	L	6530
		<i>Maj</i>	12287

HASTINGS

One member to be returned

1950 (23 Feb)	Edmund McNeill Cooper-Key	C	30035
	Cooper-Key (1907-81) was from a naval family, though he served in the army in the Second World War. He was well-connected, having married into the Rothermere family. He was knighted in 1960. He lived at Burnt Wood, Powdermill Lane, Battle. He was elected for Hastings in 1945 and re-elected at every election up his retirement in 1970.		
	<i>Lewis Coleman Cohen</i>	Lab	17603
	Lewis Cohen (1897-1966), later Lord Cohen of Brighton, has the dubious distinction of suffering the largest-ever majority against a candidate in British history: in the two-member Brighton seat of Brighton in 1931 he lost by 62,253 votes.		
	<i>Peter L M Hurd</i>	L	9122
		<i>Maj</i>	12432

1951 (25 Oct)	E McN Cooper-Key	C	34495
	<i>Mrs Catherine Ellis Williamson</i>	Lab	19621
		<i>Maj</i>	14874

From this point less information has been sought on candidates (and, more recently, Members).


RYE

One member to be returned

1955 (26 May)	Bryant Godman Irvine	C	28500
	Irvine (1909-92) was a Deputy Speaker of the Commons in 1976-82. <i>Trevor Payne</i>	Lab	10560
		<i>Maj</i>	17940
1959 (8 Oct)	B G Irvine	C	27465
	<i>J R Murray</i>	L	7549
	<i>Douglas Sidney Tilbé</i>	Lab	7359
	<i>Maj</i>	19916	
1964 (15 Oct)	B G Irvine	C	27240
	<i>Kenneth G Wellings</i>	L	10264
	<i>Anthony Arblaster</i>	Lab	8014
	<i>Maj</i>	16976	
1966 (31 Mar)	B G Irvine	C	27056
	<i>K G Wellings</i>	L	9957
	<i>D R Collins</i>	Lab	9155
	<i>Maj</i>	17099	
1970 (18 June)	B G Irvine	C	32300
	<i>H A Fountain</i>	Lab	9031
	<i>R K J F Young</i>	L	8947
	<i>Maj</i>	23269	
1974 (28 Feb)	B G Irvine	C	33591
	<i>D R S Moore</i>	L	17456
	<i>R W Harris</i>	Lab	6967
	<i>Maj</i>	16135	
1974 (10 Oct)	B G Irvine	C	30511
	<i>D R S Moore</i>	L	14828
	<i>D W Threlfall</i>	Lab	8303
	<i>Maj</i>	15683	
1979 (3 May)	B G Irvine	C	35516
	<i>D R S Moore</i>	L	12438
	<i>D Smyth</i>	Lab	6852
	<i>Miss A Rix</i>	Ecology	1257
	<i>T Duesbury</i>	Nat Front	552
	<i>Maj</i>	23078	

BEXHILL AND BATTLE

One member to be returned

1983 (9 June)	Charles Frederick Wardle	C	30329
	Wardle stood down in 2001 rather than seek re-election, being affected by the flurry of scandal surrounding alleged payments to MPs by the businessman Mohammed Al-Fayed; he denied all impropriety. Having stated that he would oppose the Conservative candidate at the next election he had the Conservative whip withdrawn. He campaigned for Nigel Farage against Greg Barker in the 2001 election.		

	<i>P Smith</i>	L/Alliance	10583
	<i>I Pearson</i>	Lab	3587
	<i>Miss A Rix</i>	Ecology	538
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>19746</i>
1987 (11 June)	Charles Wardle	C	33570
	<i>R Kiernan</i>	SDP	13051
	<i>D Watts</i>	Lab	3903
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>20519</i>
1992 (9 Apr)	Charles Wardle	C	31380
	<i>Ms S M Prochak</i>	LD	15023
	<i>F W Taylor</i>	Lab	4883
	<i>J L Prus</i>	Green	594
	<i>Ms M F Smith</i>	Ind	190
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>16357</i>
1997 (1 May)	Charles Wardle	C	23570
	<i>Mrs K M Field</i>	LD	12470
	Kathryn Field is currently (2018) a District and County Councillor for the Battle area.		
	<i>R D Beckwith</i>	Lab	8866
	<i>Ms V Thompson</i>	Referendum	3302
	<i>J Pankhurst</i>	UKIP	786
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>11100</i>
2001 (7 June)	Gregory Barker	C	21555
	<i>S Hardy</i>	LD	11052
	<i>Ms A Moore-Williams</i>	Lab	8702
	<i>Nigel Farage</i>	UKIP	3474
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>10503</i>
2005 (5 May)	Gregory Barker	C	24629
	<i>Ms M Varrall</i>	LD	11180
	<i>M Jones</i>	Lab	8457
	<i>A Smith</i>	UKIP	2568
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>13449</i>
2010 (6 May)	Gregory Barker	C	28147
	<i>Ms M Varrall</i>	LD	15267
	<i>J Royston</i>	Lab	6524
	<i>Stuart Wheeler</i>	Trust	2699
	<i>N Jackson</i>	BNP	1950
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>12880</i>
2015 (7 May)	Huw Merriman	C	30245
	<i>Geoffrey Bastin</i>	UKIP	10170
	<i>Ms M Thew</i>	Lab	7797
	<i>Ms M Sadler</i>	LD	4199
	<i>Jonathan Kent</i>	Green	2807
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>20075</i>
2017 (8 June)	Huw Merriman	C	36854
	<i>Christine Bayliss</i>	Lab	14689
	<i>Joel Kemp</i>	LD	4485
	<i>Geoffrey Bastin</i>	UKIP	2006
	<i>Jonathan Kent</i>	Green	1438
		<i>Maj</i>	<i>22165</i>

With the single brief exception of 1903-06, since 1868 the Battle area has never elected any but a Conservative candidate; and it has never elected a woman since women became eligible in 1918. Surely all would agree that at least the latter is regrettable.

Except possibly for the civil war period, up to well into the twentieth century the seat was usually if not always held by landed or wealthy men. This is particularly marked up to the middle of the nineteenth century. Landowners regarded themselves as having a duty to take part in local administration, and as recently as well within the last century, for example, Lords Lieutenant, Sheriffs and their deputies, along with magistrates, were from this class. In earlier days they arranged the elections between the families, having regard to the extended territory of Sussex, and the first *recorded* contest is as late as 1695.

The landed interest remained not without influence, even after the enforcement of the secret ballot after 1872. According to the winning candidate in the 1885 election, the Marquess of Abergavenny (of Eridge and many other places in Sussex) claimed that his influence had secured victory. That the Conservative won by 223 votes does not necessarily invalidate the claim.¹

The changes in political balance are less easy to observe. In the early days there were no political parties of the kind to which we are accustomed; the dividing lines within the Commons were in their support or otherwise of whoever was king or wished to be, much complicated by religious argument during and after the reign of Henry VIII (1509-47). Religion was the main creator of division until after the civil war, and indeed was a major factor in forming and maintaining the two political parties that grew up after the Glorious Revolution of 1688/89; though a quiet affection for the Jacobites was also a factor for some time.

Even in the nineteenth century loyalty to parties was weak. Members frequently voted in ways contrary to the wishes of their professed party. Indeed, which party they belonged to was sometimes in doubt, particularly during the 1846-68 period when the Tories were badly divided. The terms Conservative and Liberal were not universal until after 1868.

Whatever the practical definitions of party, it is clear that the Conservatives were much stronger after 1868. In one sense this is surprising, given that in 1867, 1885 and 1918 the franchise was extended to working class people whose allegiance to the local lords must have been thought doubtful, particularly given the sharp decline in the number of agricultural labourers, but in this area there were few of the growing number of industrial labourers more likely to become organised into trade unions.

The list of members and candidates given above is only for the Battle district. In addition to those mentioned in the tables there were other local people who sat for seats outside the district. The earliest so far identified is John Covert of Ewhurst, who died in 1589 and had been elected for East Grinstead three years earlier. The Parliamentary researcher says that little is known of him. His brother Walter, of western Sussex, sat for the county. His relation, if any, to the John Covert elected for the county in 1554 is unclear; the earlier John may have been his uncle. The Sackville family, in its various branches, were very frequently in Parliament up to about 1800.

The Ashburnham family of Brede provided Sir William Ashburnham, the fifth baronet, elected for Hastings from 1708 to 1741 (with a diversion to Seaford in 1715-21). His ancestor Adam Ashburnham was elected for Winchelsea in 1593.

More of our own time there was Moreton Frewen (1853-1924) of Brede Place, who was briefly (1910-11) the Independent Nationalist MP for North East Cork.

Sir Edward Boyle (1923-81), of the Salehurst baronet family, is mentioned briefly under 1903 above; he sat for Birmingham Handsworth from 1950 to 1970. He was Minister of Education in 1962-64 and later Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds. He was awarded a life peerage as Baron Boyle of Handsworth, of Salehurst.

George Kiloh

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See also

Ashburnham Place and the Ashburnham family

Bodiam Castle and its owners

Brede Place

Brightling Park and the Fullers

Catsfield Manor and Place

¹ A M Brookfield: *Annals of a chequered life* (1930), quoted in Henry Pelling: *Social geography of British elections, 1885-1910*.