

# Worthing Archaeological Society

## News sheet

### Goblestubbs Copse

For a full, professional, account of the dig, come to our October Lecture. Meanwhile.....

36 WAS members joined the dig, over 15 days.

Trench 3, from 2006 was backfilled before the dig began properly. The first time several of us have ever begun a dig by filling in a trench! The Lads (Chris and John C) had a happy day later on finishing off the backfilling.

Trench 2, had been unfinished and unfilled since 2006. It was cleared, and excitement levels were raised as Amie found some pot in the leaf litter – 4 days before the dig proper began.....



Then the digging went on – mostly by the ‘Littlehampton team’ plus Henry, with Gordon and Amie trying hard to get in too. It was very deep by the time we finished – on the last day, not even the next-to-last day – so backfilling spilled over (!) to the Saturday. Some very interesting pot was in the bottom.....



## October - November 2016

Test pits 5 and 6 were also left open in 2006. Pit 6 had Liz W’s name on it as she trowelled down to the flint layer in the bottom...

Test pit 5 began as a John G special, with others squeezing in when John set sail. Is there a possible post-hole? Ben spent some time deepening the hole – while overhearing the conversation between some of our more mature, female diggers. Was his face red because he was head down in the trench? Or was it because he was struggling not to laugh.....?

Later on Judie and David made it their special project. The posthole disappeared, but a circular pit, with burning, replaced it. Watch out for a C-14 assessment on this.



Trench 9 over a possible entrance to the enclosure. A very active trench – see below.



Trench 10 was dug to look at a possible trackway, seen on the Lidar, and was Connie’s special project. Would it tie up with the Lidar and the Survey.....It did, and the augurs were good



It did rain.....but only one day..... and we had company in our holes:



An exciting find.....is it Prehistoric cave-painting?



And we couldn't decide whether to praise him or bury him.....



(Chris and Liz, apologies to all)

### Post script.

Thanks go to Roy for finding this article:

Worthing Archaeological Society, Field Unit  
Excavation Progress Report. (extract)  
Goblestubbs.

.... recall much of what and where we dug, including some of the more interesting finds. There were a number of WAS characters, (sadly now departed), on that dig. One particular amusing and hair-raising moment was achieved by a certain ex-Military gentleman. As an explosives expert in WW2, he set about removing a few large and unyielding tree stumps that were obstructing progress of the dig. However, the first stump to receive the demolition treatment was privilege to rather a larger charge than proved necessary! The gentleman bored a hole in the stump, primed it with explosive, and told the few assembled diggers to withdraw some yards. Well, we stood behind a few saplings about 10-15 yards from the primed stump and waited. Whoompf, off it went, the younger members hurling themselves to the ground, older members staggered/fell. Lumps of wood, flint and earth flew everywhere and rattled through the trees like shrapnel. To my amazement and what amounted to sheer good luck no one had been cut or injured by the flying debris. It was dangerous to work on WAS digs in the 1970s! Health & Safety was still in its infancy then, and anyway common sense prevailed – (most of the time.....)

### Another PS.

We still haven't found Jim's trowel. Last seen on Friday August 25<sup>th</sup>. Has a band of white paint on the handle.

Also someone left behind an Engineer Lensatic Compass.

### Finds Processing

Throughout the year Finds are processed twice-monthly, at 9.30am, at our Slindon base, led by Gill Turner.

The next meetings will be on Thursdays 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November. If you are interested and not already involved, please contact Gill.

[Ggmtur@aol.com](mailto:Ggmtur@aol.com)

### Surveying

The focus of Friday activities is on keeping our skills going and enjoying being out in the open air. We are winding down somewhat over the next few months.

If you would like to be involved in Surveying, email Connie on [connieshirley1@aol.com](mailto:connieshirley1@aol.com) so that you can be added to the distribution list for the activities.

Or if you have a project where you would like some help, send the project plan for approval to Keith Bolton: [keithbolton14@gmail.com](mailto:keithbolton14@gmail.com) and he can instruct the team on what is required.

### Lecture Programme 2016 -2017

Lectures are held In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm.

#### October 11<sup>th</sup>

Amie and Gordon will report on both Goblestubbs excavations.  
This is the Con Ainsworth memorial lecture.

#### November 8<sup>th</sup>

David Rudling will talk about Roman Villas in Sussex.  
This will be preceded, at 7pm., by an introduction, given by Carlie Bradshaw, to the new WAS website.

#### December 13<sup>th</sup>

Judie English on 'Prehistoric Land Organisation on the South Downs'

**The updated Lecture List for 2016 – 2017 is at the end of the Newsletter.**

If anyone has any archaeological books to spare, please bring them to Lectures and we can raise a bit of extra money for WAS.

### Brenda Memorial Walk - Nomansland to Moot Mount

Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>  
Meet at 10am for a 10.30 start.  
Bignor Hill Car Park.  
Bring food and drink. We will remember those WAS members we have lost.

### Friday November 25<sup>th</sup>

Social Evening at the Gardeners' Arms, Sompting.  
7.30pm Quizzes raffle and a buffet.  
Tickets are £10, available at Lectures and Study Days.

If anyone has anything suitable for a raffle prize, please bring it along.

### WAS Study Day

Saturday 26th November 2016 10a.m.to 4p.m.  
Medieval Pottery Day

Duncan Brown

Curator, Museum of Southampton  
(Research Fellow Southampton University)  
Education Room, Worthing Museum  
The day will comprise an extended introduction to the development of pottery through the medieval and post-medieval periods, a practical sorting session and a concluding talk on what we can learn from studying pottery.

For more details, see end of Newsletter.

### Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> WAS Field Survey Training Day

Members of WAS and guests were treated to a lovely sunny day at The Downs Barn on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August for a survey technologies day, including setting up and using the total station with Chris, using magnetometry and resistivity with Connie and basic surveying using a plane table with Bob, including fascinating discussion of ancient techniques. All those attending thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, including an excellent talk by Connie on how to take the magnetometry and resistivity data gathered and incorporate it into landscape survey studies using GIS programs. Scrumptious cakes were provided by Gill and Connie, which helped to energize the group in the gorgeous – and hot! – weather.  
Liz Walker and Steph Smith

### Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>

David Bone led a very interested group of folk around the stones of Sompting and North Lancing Churches. It was a fascinating afternoon, many thanks to David.  
In the stones of Sompting Church (which has Saxon origins) are all 4 kinds of flint. There's Caen stone, Quarr stone, various varieties of greensand, Bath stone to name but a few. Little of the original building is now visible, lots of rebuilding is evident.



David explained that North Lancing church has undergone many changes since its Saxon origins as this is evident in the many types of stone used in its rebuilds and repairs.

The building stones of the walls were weathered and pitted in places and an array of shapes, sizes and colours all fitting skillfully together to give the church its imposing character. One of the rebuilds took place around the thirteenth century when a new chancel and tower was added. This work was clear when David Bone drew our attention to the change in stone pattern on the tower. He also explained that the many different stones used to build the walls echo the geology of the local Sussex area from locally sourced large flints and beach pebbles to different sandstone and limestone located further away. I didn't know that there were so many distinctive types of sandstone all attributed with unique names and sourced from different areas of the Upper and Lower Greensand of West Sussex. Chalk was also plentiful in the area but it was mostly used for interior stone work or lime mortar. David told us that the re-use of stone from demolished neighbouring structures or ruins was a common practice and directed us to some tile in the wall that had definitely been procured from an earlier Roman site.

The roofs of St James are truly impressive and solid looking as it is made of large slabs of Horsham Stone. The roof is a steep pitch with slightly smaller slates at the top of the ridge, increasing in size down the slope with the largest at the bottom. The new extension and restoration work at the rear of the church has been sympathetically constructed and the roof tiled in Horsham stone.

Theresa Griffiths



Also on the 18<sup>th</sup>, WAS had a Stall at the Sompting History Day.

### [Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>](#)

David McOmish's Study Day on Landscape Archaeology in Sussex, in the Museum Education Room was a great success. David led us from his youth among the humps and bumps of Peebles and Roxburghshire, to the Iron Age monuments of Southern Britain, in such an interesting way that we almost didn't notice that he'd left the Bronze Age for next time.....

The year 4000BC was an important watershed. Before this date, there were no field systems. Monuments were foreign to Britain. When they came in, it was from our neighbours in near Europe. The earliest structures were on the South Downs. Cissbury flint mines, for example. People began to build monuments, even though they had no fixed place in the landscape, it was an intertwining of the natural world, with their own. All monuments, e.g. barrows, stone monuments, causewayed enclosures, show inter-connections, and were built, rebuilt, embellished, deserted and the whole cycle began again – throughout most of Prehistory. They all involved a huge investment of expense and energy, and must have had huge significance to their builders.

### [Worthing Heritage Alliance](#)

WAS is a member of the WHA.

Do look at their website to see what is going on in the Heritage field in Worthing.

[www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk](http://www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk)

### [Annual Journal](#)

Articles for the next one will be very well received. Cheryl's email: [hutchincheryl@hotmail.com](mailto:hutchincheryl@hotmail.com)

### [Easy Fundraising](#)

If you shop online, do consider using Easyfundraising to make donations to WAS.

<https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Retailers give part of every amount spent to WAS if you nominate us as your charity.

### [Photo Archive](#)

WAS is hoping to develop an archive of photos, accessible via the website. Some of our past digs are already well covered, but if you have photos you are willing to share, please would you send them to John Green on [midwayjohn@btinternet.com](mailto:midwayjohn@btinternet.com).

If they are not recent ones, we would be grateful if you could give us names of people and sites included.

Many thanks,  
WAS Committee

### [Archaeological Talks at Worthing Museum, with James Sainsbury, \(WAS Member\)](#)

Saturday October 1st: John Pull and the Earliest Industry in Britain 10.30 - 12.30, £7.50  
Saturday 22nd October : Bronze Age Worthing - Barrows, Beakers and Hoards. 10.30 - 12.30 £7.50  
Saturday 3rd December Norman Sussex - Conquest, Castles and Towns. 10.30 - 12.30 £7.50

Also Friday 7th and Saturday 8th October Saxon Sussex Weekend. Highdown to Hastings. Free events.

Friday 7th Saxon Church walks, starts at 9.30 am at Sompting Church - on to Botolphs and Coombes.

Saturday 8th Saxon Day at 10am in the Museum: four free talks, and demonstrations of early Saxon life by the Weorod Historical Group.

### [Wealden Buildings Study Group](#)

Winter talks programme, all held at Wivelsfield Church Hall, Church Lane. RH17 7RD (car park on the left before the Church)  
October 16<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 5pm Study Day.

A full day of talks on Recording Terminology, Reading the Timbers, Dwellings within the South Downs National Park, etc.

November 20<sup>th</sup> 11am – 3pm

Talks on Hever Castle and the Alfriston Clergy House.

See [www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk](http://www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk) for full details.

### [Sussex Archaeological Society](#)

#### [Saturday 8th October - A Neolithic Day School](#)

A study of the late Stone Age culture, a bit of everything. Venue - The Redoubt Fortress, Eastbourne - 10am till 4-00pm Cost £35 or £30 SSA members. Contact [info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk) for more details.

[Saturday 22nd October - The Ouse Valley Archaeological Project](#) - (A Tribute to the late Dudley Moore) - Papers by Martin Bell, Matt Pope, Chris Butler, Jon Sygrave, David Rudling, Simon Stevens and many more local archaeologists. Sounds like a great day to me. Venue Kings Church, Brooks Road, Lewes. Cost £30 general or £27 for Friends of SSA, USAS or Students. To book or for more details contact [info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk)

### [Horsham and District Archaeological Society](#)

[HDAG Pottery Drawing Day-school](#) 15<sup>th</sup> October 10am-4pm (tutor - Dr Jane Russell, Sussex School of Archaeology)

Our last dig on our Roman site produced *quite* a lot of pottery and it would be nice to be able to draw some of what we found.

Please don't say "I can't draw" because you may be surprised under Jane Russell's tuition what you are able to achieve.

The day-school (at Roffey Millennium Hall, Horsham) will provide the basic conventions recognised in archaeological illustration. Members £20 and non members £25, places are limited to 15 so individual help is possible. To book a place please contact HDAG on [horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk) .

### [Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Winter Lecture Programme 2016 -2017](#)

Lectures take place at the Unitarian Church in New Road, Brighton,  
Talks begin at 7.30pm. Free for BHAS members; non-members £3.

#### **October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Kristina Krawiec Archaeology South East  
*Medmerry Excavations, Selsey Bill*

When 7km of coastal realignment took place at Medmerry, excavations revealed a wealth of archaeology from the Bronze Age to WWII structures, The Palaeoenvironmental sampling will

establish how the environmental conditions have changed over the last 6000 years.

### **November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Greg Chuter                      Assistant County Archaeologist  
*Malling Hill Skeletons*

Recent investigations on Malling Hill resulted from a piece of human bone found eroding out of a rabbit burrow on the east side of the hill. The most exciting discovery was a mass grave containing a group of men executed in the Saxon period, who may have been captured Viking raiders. BHAS helped fund the lab analysis so at this talk Greg will give the latest scientific news on where these men came from.

**Saturday 15th October** BHAS Local History Talk - Rye and Camber; The Far East of Sussex - Speaker Dr Geoff Mead - Venue United Reformed Church, Blatchington Road, Hove - Start time 2-30pm

### [Liss Archaeology](#)

The Colemore Project is going well, with 2 trenches opened. There's an Open Day on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am – CBA Members will be there and WAS Members are invited to join them.

Contact them at

[lissarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:lissarchaeology@gmail.com)

to sign up.

### [Eastbourne Natural History & Archaeological Society](#)

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at St Saviours Church Hall, South Street, Eastbourne  
Members free. Visitors £2.50

[www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk](http://www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk)

### [Chichester District Archaeology Society](#)

For their activities:

[www.cdas.info](http://www.cdas.info)

### [Beeding and Bramber Local History Society](#)

Meetings are held at 7.45pm in Beeding & Bramber Village Hall, High Street, Upper Beeding, BN44 3WN and visitors are always welcome, entry for them £2.

Oct. 5 *Stewart Angell* The Secret Sussex Radio Network

Nov. 2 *Mark Perry-Nash* Life in Medieval Sussex: Village and Town

### [Geology, Landscape and Man in Southeast England](#)

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 9am to 6pm at Worthing College.

A wide range of Speakers, including Annabelle Hughes and Tom Dommett, sure to be a great day.

For full details and a Registration form, please contact the Organiser, Anthony Brook on [anthony.brook27@btinternet.com](mailto:anthony.brook27@btinternet.com)

### [And finally a reminder](#)

Subs for 2016 were due on January 1<sup>st</sup> - £25 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

Thank you very much to those who have already paid.

We would ask Members who pay by standing order or direct debit to please increase their amounts in line with the subs for 2016. Many thanks for this.

If the increased rate causes problems for anyone, do please let us know – via [Connie \[connieshirley1@aol.com\]\(mailto:connieshirley1@aol.com\)](mailto:connieshirley1@aol.com)

See Liz at Lectures or:

Please send to:

Liz Lane,  
Membership Secretary.  
5 Smugglers' Walk  
Goring-by-Sea,  
West Sussex.  
BN12 4DP

Membership forms can also be downloaded from the WAS website.

Items for next News sheet please to

Liz, as above,

or [liz.13lane@gmail.com](mailto:liz.13lane@gmail.com)

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)

## Medieval Pottery Day

**Duncan Brown**

**Curator Museum of Southampton**

**(Research Fellow Southampton University)**

**Saturday 26th November 2016 from 10a.m. to 4p.m.**

**Education Room, Worthing Museum**

The day will comprise an extended introduction to the development of pottery through the medieval and post-medieval periods, a practical sorting session and a concluding talk on what we can learn from studying pottery.

The cost of the day course is £25 for members and £30 for non-members.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact Jacqueline Lake by email:

jacqueline\_lake@ [hotmail.com](mailto:jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com) or Tel: (01903) 215671.