

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

Windows

We have decided to commission two glass windows to put on Worthing Pier. Both will be under the WAS banner, one will commemorate John Pull, and the other Con Ainsworth. This is a project initiated by the Worthing Journal. There are already about 50 windows completed and installed. If you don't already know about these, follow this link: <http://www.sibhanjones.com/worthingpier.html> If you would like to contribute to either or both of these, we would be delighted. Please contact Liz or Connie.

WAS Field Unit

Field 20 (War Ag2) excavation.

(This is not a Professional Report)

A week long dig in March is pushing your luck. A week long dig in March on Field 20 is suicidal. It's because of Field 20 that the Romans withdrew to sunnier climes. How wrong I was.

Set-up day was dry and quite sunny, however it was long, 12 metres long and 12 metres wide. So much soil the poor excavator had to move the spoil at least three times before it could clear the site.

The tent was a godsend, Galas Tenticus, as the wind was even more keen than the diggers. It started in the south west and moved round to the north east by the end of the week but the straps held it all in place and kept Gill's paperwork in order. The wind rarely ceased but it did keep the rain at bay, well mostly. Only one really bad day but the gazebos worked well and kept most people dry.



With Henry's trench from 2016 located and reopened, flints started coming to the surface like worms in a rainstorm. Walls contained walls and were accompanied by walls with adjacent

April - May 2017

walls but the all important burning was ever present and added to the puzzle of the site.



Were the surrounding trenches pre-Roman or natural? This was the question on every one's lips, that and biscuit crumbs. The annual dig is supposed to burn off the winter fat and get one lean and fit for the summer but with so many doughnuts, flapjacks and biscuits most people spent the day on their knees.



The only thing missing at the end of a hard day's digging was a soak in a warm bath. Luckily Henry obliged with the unearthing of a clay bath tub, long enough to stretch out in but not deep enough and no water. An inconclusive dig but thoroughly enjoyable and of course being inconclusive means we will probably go back again. Chris Lane

Many thanks to our new Members, all new to digging, who put up with some awful conditions with great good humour and enthusiasm – Steph, Lynda, Simon, Liz and Davin.

Finds Processing

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

Next dates: Thursday, 6th April – Recording Tesseræ for Slindon CBM Assessment
Thursday, 20th April - Sorting & Recording Hammerpot Flint
Thursdays 4th & 18th May.

Surveying

The focus of Friday activities is on keeping our skills going and enjoying being out in the open air.

Recent activities involve surveying on Field 20, and some magnetometry for the Horsham Group.

If you would like to take part, email Connie on 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 and he can instruct the team on what is required.

Lecture Programme

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

April 11

Oliver Gilkes

Two Ancient Cities: Archaeology at Butrint and Gjirokastra in Albania.

Once the most isolated and poorest country in Europe, Albania's archaeological heritage is as rich as any in the Mediterranean. Oliver Gilkes has worked there for 22 years at two World Heritage Sites, the ancient city of Butrint, a multiperiod site famed for its fine mosaics, picturesquely sited overlooking the Ionian Sea and the island of Corfu; and its dramatically different neighbour the austere stone city of Gjirokastra. Epirotes, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans mingle in a stunning landscape of mountains and sea shores.

October 10th

Gordon Hayden on "Iron Age Memory vs. Roman Metaphor; re-reading the archaeology of a Client Kingdom."

What was the immediate impact of the Roman Conquest in Hampshire and West Sussex? The lecture will highlight some continuation of Iron Age traditions and how they interplayed with incoming ideas and practices. It will also propose an alternative hypothesis as to why Fishbourne Palace was built.

This is the Con Ainsworth Memorial Lecture.

November 14th

James Sainsbury on "Evidence for Saxons in Post-Roman Sussex"

Archaeology is the key driver in uncovering evidence for Germanic settlement in Sussex during the decline of the Western Roman

Empire. The historical documents are few and unreliable, though arguably should not be dismissed outright. This talk will look at some key 5th and 6th century Saxon burial and settlement sites in the county, along with documents, chance finds and new genetic research in an attempt to piece together the birth of the kingdom of Sussex.

James will be bringing some finds from the Highdown Cemetery for handling after his talk.

December 12th

Nigel Rumble on "The life of an English Soldier in the English Civil War"

Nigel will talk about the clothes, weapons and accoutrements used by a soldier in England in the 1640's in his daily life. He will also briefly cover the make-up of the reproduction clothing and equipment and armies and talk a very small amount about battle tactics. The talk will be illustrated with (mostly) explanations of their use; there will be an opportunity at the end to examine these items more closely.

WAS Study Days

Saturday June 17th

Flint-knapping Day School with Bob Turner at the Downs Barn.

Full details at the end of the Newsletter.

Saturday September 30th

A Study Day on The Bronze Age led by David McOmish, at the Museum

Saturday November 25th

Place Names in the Landscape, a morning with Judie English at the Museum.

WAS Walk Sunday May 14th

This is to commemorate Con Ainsworth on what would have been his 100th birthday.

Meet between 10.15 and 10.30 at the George in Burpham. Con and his wife Ena's ashes were spread around Peppering High Barn and that is where we should pour a libation to them. The George is a good place for lunch afterwards. Let's hope it will be a nice day.

If you would like to come, but need a lift, then please contact Liz on liz.13lane@gmail.com

February Lecture

Our Field Unit Director, Keith Bolton, gave a comprehensive talk on 20 years of WAS at Slindon, at the invitation of the National Trust.

WAS was to tackle various projects on the Slindon Estate. We were also given access to a Finds and storage shed.

The first excavation was in the deer park, on a suspected settlement site. Southampton University had undertaken an initial excavation and then WAS continued the excavation. Flint foundations had been located 20cm below the ploughed surface. In 2002 a large area of burning and brick and tile was found. This might well be an aisled building, associated with agricultural activity, so probably part of a larger complex. It dated from the first half of the 2nd century AD to the third quarter of the 3rd century, and is located 60m above sea level, and South-facing.

Another very worthwhile project was to survey the Park Pale. The park dates from the 13th Century, and belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury – the pale was to contain his deer. In 2010 various holes in the parks were investigated. The first was a deep hole, concrete-capped, with very good brickwork – probably a drainage feature. The feature on Bignor Hill, needs further investigation.

An extensive survey was also done of the cellars under Slindon House. They were used in both Wars by the Ministry of Defence.

A trial excavation was also done at 'The Lodge' in the village.

The former stableyard was another extensive WAS investigation. There was a fire there after WWII, and it was mostly demolished. We uncovered the bases of the stalls, and learned more about the drainage.

Our current project is on 'Field 20' on the estate. This was one of the 'War Ag' fields, ploughed for food production during the wars, and there is now a big project to re-tree the area. Robin Upton, now retired from farming, was an indefatigable collector of artefacts, and there is a huge collection of flints and Roman finds from this field. In 1976 up to 10 barrows were seen in the field – sadly, there was no sign of them by 2016.

Keith outlined several possible future projects, for instance, recording the Downs Barn, investigating another building in the deer park, looking at the WW1 Airship station and the military history of the village.

He discussed the way technology has moved on over the last 20 years, and given us much more information. He also gave the Society's appreciation to the Project Directors and the Finds and Survey Teams.

[WAS Study Day March 11th The Archaeology of the Roman Military](#)

Edwin Wood gave us an excellent Romans in Britain day in the Museum. He began by talking about the Roman invasions of Britain from 55BC onwards, when and where they landed and why they came at all. He discussed the pre-existing relationships between the Romans and the various tribes of southern British and the lack of evidence for the camps they would have been expected to make on their arrival and journey to London and Colchester. The story was evidently not as simple as I had assumed.

After the morning break Edwin started telling us all about the range of weapons used by the Romans in Britain, from swords and daggers to javelins and sling shots. We were able to handle numerous replicas and he showed how they were used, and told us how the soldiers obtained them.

After lunch he went on to describe Roman armour and its development during the time of occupation from helmets to mail and shields. Again there were numerous replicas to handle and examine and we were able to have a go at making the links for the chain mail.

In the last session Edwin talked about the role of the Romans in British society. There were plenty of questions from the audience with a lot of preconceptions debunked. Edwin was so knowledgeable and enthusiastic it made for a very entertaining day. Jacqui Lake

[March AGM](#)

John Mills chaired our AGM.

In his Chairman's report Keith gave our thanks and appreciation to Theresa and Richard Griffiths, and to Carlie Bradshaw for all they have done – and continue to do – in creating our new WAS website.

He told the Society about the plan for the Windows on the Pier – see above. He thanked Mr Derek Heryet for his generous donation towards the cost of the windows.

He also thanked the Finds Team for what they have been doing in readying the Con Ainsworth Collection from the Binsted excavations for the Cardiff University Project. Dr Ben Jervis will be leading this Project, and we will be handing over the Finds, plus the Archive (which is now in the Museum) during August.

Keith gave our heartfelt thanks to Roy Plummer who has spent very many years transcribing all of the Archive, especially Con's notebooks.

He also thanked Andy Bell, Theresa Griffiths, Jacqui Lake and Patricia Leming for all their work organising Lectures and Study Days.

In her Treasurer's Report, Connie presented and discussed the accounts and thanked the National Trust for their support, not least in them letting us have a shed at Slindon. Bob Turner was also thanked for continuing to be our Independent Examiner of Accounts.

In his Field Unit Report, Keith thanked Amie and Gordon for organising the Goblestubbs dig, and for their Autumn Lecture.

He reminded us that this year marks 20 years of our association with the National Trust.

He thanked the Finds and Survey teams and Bob and Gordon for their help and support.

He gave a full appreciation of all the work Pete Brannlund has done for WAS over various sites over several years, and especially on the Brinsbury site, which is of National Importance.

He thanked all members for all their work.

Our President gave many thanks to Keith and to the Committee.

Dr. Mike Allen, at the end, said that WAS had been very warmly mentioned at a recent Society of Antiquaries meeting.

[March Lecture](#)

[Mike Allen](#) on 'Why Stonehenge is really where it is, and other stories from Environmental Archaeology'

Mike, who is originally from Sussex, recalled that, some years ago, his WAS Lecture was introduced by Con Ainsworth.

His Lecture this time looked at the landscape, vegetation and land use of the Stonehenge area. Mike says that Geo-archaeology answers these questions.

Before any monuments existed in the Stonehenge area, there was cold tundra with mixed hazel woodland which then covered most of Northern Europe. As pollen doesn't survive on the chalk Downs, an effective alternative is to study snails. They are not as useful, but give an idea of the existing vegetation structure and how it changed over time.

There are 118 species of snail. In archaeological deposits ones as small as 0.5mm can be found by processing soil samples and using a microscope. Snails prefer different habitats, some woodland, some grassland, some prefer long grass, some short. Knowing about the snails leads to learning about the people on the land. For instance, the

land at Windmill Hill was cleared not long before the monument was built.

Stonehenge is not on a prominent hill or spur, not in the centre of the monuments of the area, neither the first nor last monument in the area, and is in a shallow basin.

This is not a ritual landscape, people lived in it. There was a sequence of woodland, clearance, grassland, tillage. In the Early Bronze Age the area was open grassland – as now, food for animals. So why build it where it is? Mike's theory is that the presence of peri-glacial strips, which appear as parallel lines in the grass and which align with the solstice at the monument, may mean that it was built to capture the sun – very important for farming communities.

Liz Lane

Afterword: it should be noted that different snail species were used as general environmental indicators by John Pull, in an article entitled 'The Age of the Blackpatch Flint Mines' in the Worthing Herald magazine of 9th June 1923. In the ensuing published letters between John Pull and Herbert Toms, Curator of Brighton Museum, No 5 in a series of 8 articles in the Worthing Herald magazine on 'the Round Barrows of Blackpatch' of 26th May 1928, is all about 'the Non-Marine Mollusc. Two consecutive articles by Herbert Toms, in the same newspaper on the 18th and 25th August 1928 relate snail species to ancient downland environments.

Anthony Brook

[Annual Journal](#)

Articles for the next one will be very well received.

Cheryl's email: hutchincheryl@hotmail.com

[Update on Petworth](#)

The 'Park Explorer' App (available at the Church Lane entrance) represents the public interface culmination of the three year Petworth Park Historic Landscapes Archaeology & Archival Research Project led by Tom Dommett, the Trust's Archaeologist for West Sussex & The South Downs. Clasp your smart phone or tablet, you can wander in the Park accessing the various installed hotspots to access animations, videos, and digital reconstructions of the demolished lost buildings and surroundings of the various periods before Capability Brown and his predecessors.

As you can appreciate this facility reduces the need to place a large number of obtrusive information boards in the landscape, and as the Trust nationally has many such landscapes, the possibilities to further research their antecedents and make them available to visitors in the future is immense. It also enables the visitor at whatever level of interest and itinerary time constraints, to access as much of the information available as they want. The other very positive aspect of this Trust initiative is that it has brought together many members of all the Archaeological Societies (including WAS) & Local History Groups in its catchment area, to achieve a common goal with strong community involvement.
John Crane (from National Trust publicity)

[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 Theresa and Richard on theresa_in_brighton@yahoo.co.uk
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

[Worthing Museum Education Room.](#)

Saturday 20th May 2pm
The English Companions: Bede and Story Telling.
A talk and discussion with James Simister.
For further details telephone Patrick Marshall: 01273 453056

[Sussex School of Archaeology](#)

Thursday, May 11th 2017 (19:00-21:00)
"Arthur and the Kings of Britain: archaeology and the 'lost voice' of prehistory."
Talk by Dr Miles Russell (Bournemouth University)
Entrance by ticket purchased in advance priced £8 for members of the Sussex School of Archaeology, the University of Sussex or the Sussex Archaeological Society; others £10. For

tickets please contact:
www.sussexarchaeology.org; email:
info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk; or phone
01323 811785.
The University of Sussex, Fulton Building
Lecture Theatre A, Brighton BN1 9RH

[Horsham and District Archaeology Group](#)

Wednesday 5th April 7.30 pm.
A talk by Dr Jane Russell, on the Neolithic Rock Art in Britain and Ireland: Sacred or Secular works of art, or random graffiti? Roffey Millennium Hall, Horsham, RH12 4DT. All welcome, members free, non members £3. Any queries please contact horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309.
The evening will be followed by a short AGM for members.

[Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society](#)

Saturday April 1st - [Day School](#) - Celtic and Roman Art - Tutor Dr Miles Russell - Venue Patcham Community Centre - 10-00am till 4-00pm. Contact Maria Gardiner at m.gardiner71@btinternet.com to book or for more details.
Saturday April 1st - [Local History Talk](#) - Space and Status: how the medieval house was used - Speaker Judie English - Venue United Reformed Church, Blatchington Road, Hove - Start time 2-30pm
Friday, April 21st 2017
Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society –
Archaeology of the South Downs National Park
Talk by John Manley (re-scheduled from January)
Free entry for members, £3 to non-members
Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton BN1 1UF

[Summer Outings](#)

Sunday 18th June to Reculver and Richborough Roman Forts, Kent (English Heritage site)
Sunday 16th July to Sutton Hoo, Suffolk (National Trust site)
WAS Members get a £3 reduction!
Please contact Jane Russell for further information and a Booking Form.
Phone 01273 551946
russco40@hotmail.com

[Liss Archaeology](#)

<http://www.archaeology.co.uk/digging/fieldwork/the-colemore-project.htm>

CBA Southeast

Saturday, April 22nd 2017 (10:00-16:00)

Flint Drawing Day School

This day course, led by Jane Russell, will help those who wish to prepare lithic illustrations for publication and those who just enjoy drawing flint tools. In the class we will draw the tools accurately in pencil in preparation for later inking up by pen, or by computer programmes. The class is suitable for beginners and those wishing to brush up on their skills.

this course is almost fully booked so please check first for any remaining places

Members £20 / Non-Members £25

Leatherhead Institute, 67 High St, Leatherhead KT22 8AH

Saturday, May 20th 2017 (10:00-16:00)

'Medieval Graffiti' tour,

Bodiam Castle*

Tour guides: Nathalie Cohen/Lance

Woodman (National Trust)

This tour takes in the 14th century moated castle of Bodiam, including a special tour of some of the newly surveyed medieval inscriptions carved on its walls – after lunch the tour will resume around the grounds

Tour £2.50 for all (please note admission applies to non-NT members)

Please see <http://www.cbasouth-east.org/events/cbase-tours-and-field-trips>

for details.

South-East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference.

Saturday, April 25th 2017 (09:00-17:45)

"Celebrating 50 years of SIAS"

Annual one-day conference, hosted this year by Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society (SIAS).

Speakers include Professor Marilyn Palmer, Alan H. J. Green, Paul Snelling, Peter Hill, David Jones, and John Blackwell.

Tickets £12 (+£10 for lunch). See <http://www.sihg.org.uk/seriac17.htm> for more details.

Worthing College, Sanditon Way, Worthing BN14 9FD

Chichester District Archaeology Society

Wednesday 5 April 2017 Guided Walk in Kingley Vale led by Mike Kallaway

Cost: Members £1.00, non-members £6.00 (if places are available) payable in cash on the day

Saturday 22 April 2017 - West Sussex landscapes and geology for the archaeologist Minibus tour through West Sussex led by Matt Pope.

Cost £26 for CDAS members, £31 for non-members if places are available

You will find more details on the website <http://www.cdass.info/Study%20Days.html>

To book a place on either of these courses, contact Pauline Blagden at training@cdass.info Wednesday, April 26th 2017 (19:30)

Chichester and District Archaeological Society – **The Forest of Arundel and the Fitzalan Earls' Deer Park at Downley, Singleton, West Sussex**

Talk by Mark Roberts

Free to Members, non-members £5 payable at the door

New Park Centre, New Park Road, Chichester PO19 7XY

Walking into History

Archaeology Walks for 2017 with Alex Vincent. Meet at the Resource Centre (Davidson House) Car Park, North St., Worthing (BN11 1ER) on Monday evening at 6.45 for a 7pm start. Car sharing from there.

These will resume in June:

Monday June 5th. Slonk Hill, Shoreham

Monday June 12th Whitehawk, Brighton

Monday June 26th Warminghurst

Monday 26th Ashcombe, Lewes

Summer Solstice June 21st Highdown Hill. Meet at the Spotted Cow, Angmering at 7pm to join the Sompting Morris, or meet on Highdown Hill about 8pm

And finally a reminder

Subs for 2017 were due on January 1st - £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 2017. Many thanks for this.

If the increased rate causes problems for anyone, do please let us know – via Connie 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:
www.worthingarchaeological.org

Items for next News sheet please to
Liz, as above,
or liz.13lane@gmail.com

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered
Charity (291431)

Flint-knapping Day School with Bob Turner

Saturday June 17th

10am to 4pm

This will be held in the beautiful venue of the Downs Barn.



Bob will tell us about the uses of flint tools in Prehistory and demonstrate how to make them.

This will be followed by practical sessions where we can try to make our own.

Information on the Downs Barn and how to get there is shown in the link below.

<http://www.somptingestate.com/downs-barn>

Coffee and tea will be available. Bring your own packed lunch.

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

If interested and to book contact jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com
or via the WAS Website www.worthingarchaeological.org.

