

# Worthing Archaeological Society

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A very Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy and Archaeological New Year to you all.

## News sheet

## December 2015 – January 2016

### Fieldwork

There will be an Open Field Unit Forum Meeting on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, from 10am – 4pm, in the Library Lecture Theatre. Come along and discuss possible Fieldwork projects for 2016.

### New Year Walk, Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This will be a repeat of the lovely Chanctonbury Walk which some of us did in August. Our walk over Chanctonbury was inspired by the novel The Sussex Downs Murder by John Bude which features many locations in the area around Chanctonbury and since WAS has been excavating a lime kiln, the kilns and quarries in the area are of special interest. Chanctonbury Ring itself, dates from the Bronze Age and Janet Pennington's excellent book Chanctonbury Ring - The Story of a Sussex Landmark details many of the uses of the landscape as well as a real murder which took place in 1330. Our walk takes us over some steep and open terrain so will be something of a challenge. We will be meeting at 12:30 in the Chanctonbury car park. Depending on the weather we may cut the walk shorter – perhaps to include a deserted medieval village and Bunton Chapel, which has Roman brick and tile in the walls - and we hope to repair to the Wiston Tea Rooms afterwards for refreshment. If there are last minute weather doubts, please contact Connie on 07971287784, before 11am.

### Feedback to the Community on the Excavation of June 2015 at St Nicholas Garden, Angmering

The feedback to the community took place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Angmering Community Centre. Thanks to Helen Green's organisational skill and her publicity for the event, it was very well attended with plenty to

see. Site directors Pete Brannlund and Amie Friend set up a presentation of photos and drawings and explained how we worked.

Local artist Ron Dellar brought along his paintings of the dig and the finds team were kept busy explaining that the spread across two tables was just a tiny sample of what we had found.

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The school children's work showed the enthusiasm of the younger generation for the archaeological process and we even had some people think that it was all so interesting they might join WAS. The formal report will be published in the next WAS Journal but a copy of the community report is available as a pdf.

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### Finds Processing

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

The next dates are:

Thursday, 3rd December when we will be continuing with the Slindon Brick & Tile assessment.

Thursday, 17th December, our 'Christmas Get Together' - come along and join us for coffee, mince pies and lots of chatter and laughter!

Thursdays, 7th and 21st January 2016

If you are interested and not already involved, please contact Gill.

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

### The Friday Team Update

Work at Slindon, Field 20, was blessed with lovely weather. Twelve 20m x 20m squares were surveyed with the resistivity machine and passed on to Tom Dommett and the National Trust for the next step.



The Surveyors have been helping with a Brighton project at Preston Park. Spot the difference in the weather.....



The Team.

The focus of Friday team activities is on keeping our skills going and enjoying being out in the open air. If you would like to take part, 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.

### Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>

It was a lovely day for our annual Brenda's Walk from Angmering up on to Highdown.

Thanks, Cheryl and Alex, for all the information.

Libations were poured on the possible Bronze Age site for Brenda, Eric, and all the other folk we have lost.



### An Autumn stroll through Binsted Wood

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October John Green led a group of sixteen enthusiastic walkers with expertise in archaeology, geology and knowledge of the local area and history. The weather was fine and the ancient woodland a spectacular display of autumn colours. We met up in Binsted Lane where John explained that we would be looking at the many pits and earthworks concealed in Upper Binsted Wood which also included a walk along Old Scotland Lane.

The 3 mile circular walk followed tracks, paths, and a small part of dual carriageway but often deviated through the woodland to investigate hidden anomalies on the LiDAR images. Firstly, we walked down the lane to an area of land where clay pits were discovered and Binsted's early pottery production was sited. John told us about the two medieval tile kilns excavated in this area and pointed out the site of the 2006 dig by WAS – many of the group were part of the kiln dig and offered lots of information and insights. Mike and Emma Tristram, who live locally, said that the area was known as 'All the World', which seems to be descriptive of the importance of the site.

The walk took us down a track through the woods called Old Scotland Lane, which I was told is nothing to do with Scotland but a type of early tax or 'scot'. In addition, we discussed that the lane may be of Roman origin because of its width and the ditches on each side. There was evidence as we walked along the trackway of past uses of the woodlands from coppicing to

signs of more recent woodland management. But, most significant of all were the many ditches, mounds and pits that stood out clearly in the undergrowth. The LiDAR images described the shape, size and extent of the earthworks showing the apparent existence of further historical clay, brick and tile production hidden beneath the trees. We also came across a new pit where clay had been dug and heaped up to weather over the winter.

I'm sure we all appreciated the insightful knowledge of John Mills, Archaeologist, David Bone, Geologist, and Mike and Emma for their contribution to our understanding of Binsted. But especially John Green, who claimed he had no special knowledge (but did!) and guided us on an extremely well-researched route.

Theresa Griffiths

### [The Celts at the British Museum.](#)

On Thursday 29 October, an intrepid group set out for The British Museum, to see The Celts exhibition. We managed to catch the same train although from different stations and under Andy's expert guidance we made it to the correct bus stop. So far, so good. The bus took so long we arrived for our 12:00 timed visit 40 minutes late.

Hurriedly we took our places – no time to eat or drink – and off we set round the exhibition. We were all totally astounded by the richness of the displays. I had seen many pictures and TV programmes about the Great Torque. To see it in reality was quite different. The workmanship was quite exquisite. Did you know there were not just one but ten Hoards?

The story unfolds over 2,500 years, from the first recorded mention of 'Celts' to an exploration of contemporary Celtic influences. We could see how this identity has been revived and reinvented over the centuries, across Britain, Europe and beyond.

The amazing Gundestrup cauldron was both exhibited and explained in separate text passages and is just one of the special artefacts loaned from other museums. Eventually exhausted and hungry we made our way back to the station where we all bought hasty snacks and caught the train home, eagerly discussing what we had seen. Certainly a most enjoyable, stimulating and informative day.

Margaret Maroney.

### [Lecture Programme](#)

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

#### December 8

Alice Thorne and Kimberly Briscoe on the 'Secrets of the High Woods Project'. An illustrated lecture on the LIDAR survey of the wooded areas of the South Downs and the results of the ground-based investigation of these woods carried out by volunteers and professionals.

#### January 12

Sean Wallis of the Thames Valley Archaeological Services on TVAS's recent archaeological investigations in the Worthing area.

#### February 9

James Sainsbury, Resident Archaeologist at Worthing Museum on 'John Pull and Britain's Earliest Industrial Landscape'

An in-depth talk on John Pull's investigations at Blackpatch, Church Hill and Cissbury Ring. From humble beginnings at Blackpatch to the well-respected local figure excavating at Cissbury, Pull spent nearly forty years digging on the Downs. We will look in detail at his excavations of the nationally important Neolithic flint mining complexes north of Worthing and whether his conclusions stand up to modern scrutiny, in addition to having the opportunity to view his original plans, notes and illustrations. Similarly some of the enigmatic finds from these sites will be available for handling and viewing.

This is the John Pull Lecture

Glass of wine or cup of coffee afterwards

#### March 8

AGM at 7.00pm followed by Lecture at 7.30pm

Tom Dommert, National Trust Archaeologist, on 'The Excavations at Petworth Park'.

Beneath Capability Brown's manicured landscape, created in the 1750s, lie the traces of hundreds of years of historical change, development and expansion. Tom will talk about the discovery of Tudor hunting lodges, deserted medieval villages and demolished monumental stables discovered during the Petworth Park archaeological project.

### [WAS Study Days](#)

The next planned Study days are:

Saturday, 23rd January 2016 - Romano-British Art with Miles Russell  
See Flyer at end of Newsletter.

Saturday February 13<sup>th</sup> : Historic Building Stone of West Sussex with David Bone.  
An example below of recycling Roman stone at Westhampnett Church.



Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March: Making Sense of Monuments - Landscape Archaeology in Sussex with David McOmish.

#### St Nicholas Angmering Lecture in October

Pete and Amie gave us a comprehensive, illustrated, talk on the dig. Pete covered the archaeology – initial aims, what was achieved, questions answered and some still to be answered and Amie followed with lots of illustrations of the very successful Community Aspect of it all.

#### November Lecture Bob Turner on The Story of the Vikings, their History, Social Interaction and Artifacts.

Bob gave a very interesting talk on the Vikings. During a working cruise to Norway he was asked to talk about them so this lecture is based on that subject matter.

The Viking era is the period A.D. 793 – 1066 in European history. The early Scandinavians were very mixed race until the Viking age. The Danes and Norwegians were Britain's main visitors though Vikings went all over the world settling in Ireland, Iceland, Greenland, Canada etc.

Due to the topography of Norway, with its mountains, deep fjords and glaciers there was little land for farming. The Vikings built their boats to seek pastures new but always returned to their native lands to carry on their subsistence farming.

They attacked the Abbey at Lindisfarne in 793, looking for slaves and stealing silver. For 300 years they pillaged our lands taking slaves, stealing silver and other valuable items from churches. They prospered because they made

random attacks. The Vikings placed an emphasis on the idea of valour and honour. Valhalla was worshipped as a mythical home for the fallen warrior.

#### Some untrue myths about Vikings

1. They wore helmets with horns on – They either went bareheaded or wore simple leather and metal framed helmets.
2. They were filthy and unkempt – they were much cleaner than Anglo Saxons. Many combs and other such implements have been found.
3. They spent all their time warring – they were also farmers
4. The Vikings were a unified army – they were spread out and used small raiding parties
5. They were physically large and muscular – they were actually smaller than native Anglo-Saxons
6. The Vikings were attacking a peaceful land – there were 7 Kingdoms all at war here: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Wessex, Sussex and Kent.

#### Viking Ships

The Oseberg longship had been found in a large burial mound in Vestfold, Norway. Boats were commonly used in burials in order to take warriors to Valhalla and were often surrounded by their slaves and dogs. The boat was well preserved and was thought to be buried in 834. It was made of oak and was very big. Longships generally had a shallow draught and when attempting to land the Vikings could draw the boat up horizontally to the shore so that they could all disembark together.

They had no maps but it is thought they had their own unique way of navigating the oceans.

#### Norse Myths

One of the Norse Myths depicted 'Yggdrasil' an immense tree that is central to Norse Cosmology. The Vikings worshipped many Gods some of whom are well known eg: Odin God of War (Chief God). Thor, God of Thunder, Fertility and Sky. Loke, God of Mischief.

#### Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

The Chronicle was thought to have originated during Alfred the Great's reign in the latter part of 9<sup>th</sup> Century. Various copies were made. Bob referred to 78 references he had found relating to different battles involving not only the Vikings but also other groups.

The Danegeld was a tax raised to pay tribute to the Viking and Danes and was in fact used to stop them from invading Britain and to buy peace for various lengths of time.

Reconstructed Viking Chieftain's house, at Borg in the Lofoten Islands, North Norway

The final part of Bob's cruise included a trip to an excavation and museum based in Borg. This was a longhouse, which gave an idea of what life was like during Viking times, showing the food they ate, weapons they used etc. Life expectancy was 30. There was a large infant mortality rate and feuds took their toll of adults. Battle injuries meant death as wounds would get infected. Famines and plagues reduced the population. There was only herbal medicine and leeches to help the injured and dying.

Viking raids diminished by the late 1050's and in 1066 William Duke of Normandy defeated The Anglo-Saxon King Harold during the Battle of Hastings and imposed Norman rule.

Patricia Leming

Bob Turner's Flint tool workshop held at Worthing Museum on 14th November was well attended by WAS members and packed with interest. The day comprised a series of talks given by Bob, interspersed with several practical, hands on, group exercises. Bob began with a comprehensive overview of the circumstances which led to the production of stone tools from the Palaeolithic onwards. He went on to describe how the tools developed to take account of the changing activities of the Homo sapiens as their way of life developed from hunter gathering to farming. Bob explained the knapping techniques employed, and we were able to handle a fascinating range of stone tools covering the full range of periods. The afternoon ended with each group being given the opportunity of testing our newfound knowledge with a bag full of various flint tools to sort into period and tool type. So many thanks to Bob for a very enjoyable and enlightening day, and to Gill for pulling it all together and providing the excellent refreshments.

Jacqui Lake

November 27<sup>th</sup> Walk over The Mountain, Sompting

David Brown led a guided woodland archaeology walk at Titch Hill Wood (The Mountain). We started

at the Barn, with coffee, tea, biscuits and cake kindly supplied by Emma and Mike Tristram, and Connie.

We had a good look at the Rampion trench on our way – very, very sticky chalky mud!

David had already surveyed the Mountain and showed us a possible flint mine, pits which could be for chalk, possible Second World War Observation Points and the site of another lime kiln.

Lots there for the Friday Team!

Many thanks to David and the Tristrams.

Autumn Social. November 27.

About 20 Members and friends enjoyed our annual Social at the Gardener's Arms, with quizzes and a good buffet.

Many thanks to Margaret and Alex for the quizzes, and especial thanks to Margaret for all her organisation.

This is the last WAS Social which Margaret will organise, and we all thank her (and Colin), for all her hard work.

The Socials will continue.

Val's Brainteaser

What is a non-mechanical soil distributor facilitator?

Answers to the Editor, who will pass on to Val!

Corsica

Corsica is well worth a visit for anyone interested in prehistory and it is only a couple of hours by Easy Jet from Gatwick. Not only is the island very beautiful, relatively unspoiled, and scattered with amazing medieval towns, but also there are quite a number of Neolithic and Bronze age sites. To find some you will need an OS map as there is a dearth of signposts, however you will have the sites to yourself and can wander about freely. There are a few well-known sites, one at Filitosa is very well presented with explanations in English as well as French and has its own museum of artefacts.

The Neolithic sites are remarkable for their 2/3 metre high menhirs carved with faces and sometimes weapons, and the Bronze Age for their "torri", dome shaped complex structures with passageways spiralling more and more narrowly to the top. Most of the sites I visited, including Filitosa had been occupied through the Neolithic and Bronze Age and had both

menhirs and torri. They are generally sited on the lower slopes of mountains facing the sea. There is a very good modern prehistory museum in the beautiful medieval town of Sartene. (below)



Site with menhirs and torri



Jacqui Lake

Antiquity Magazine features [Cissbury](#) and some of the drawings found there.

<http://www.antiquity.ac.uk/projgall/teather347>

### Annual Journal

This is almost ready for printing now. Thanks, Cheryl.

### WAS Occasional Paper 2

On Slindon.

Is available now, either to download or with this mailing.

Thanks to Rodney (Author) and Cheryl (Editor) for their hard work on this.

### 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

[info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk)

[www.sussexarchaeology.org](http://www.sussexarchaeology.org)

### Horsham and District Archaeology Group

Monday 18th January 2016 7pm - Talk by the Nautical Archaeological Society, at The Tythe Barn, Horsham with time for tea, cake and a catch up afterwards. ( Free to HDAG members)

Saturday 27th February 2016 10am-4pm - Bayeux Tapestry Dayschool with Simon Stevens, ASE, at Easteds Barn, Southwater.( A fee will apply).

[horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk)

### Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Friday - December 4<sup>th</sup>

AGM at 7pm followed by:-

John Skelton – Update on the Ovingdean Excavations

David Rudling – Report on the Plumpton Roman Villa Excavations

Talk starts at 7.30pm at the Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton.

Free entry to BHAS Members, non-members £3.00

### USAS Lecture Series 2015/16

All talks start at 7.00pm

(just turn up)

Venue: FULTON BUILDING Lecture Theatre A University of Sussex,

£2 Members, £3 Non-Members

Thursday 21st January 2016

*Reconstructing medieval Herstmonceux: A story of deer, death and desertion*

Dr Scott McLean (ISC Herstmonceux)

### Secrets of the High Woods

The project continues – archival research as well as in the field. Several WAS Members are now fully-trained and actively taking part. Hear all about it at our December Lecture.

### [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.

Wed. Jan. 6th at 7.45 pm Janet Pennington on  
A History of the Adur Valley

The [Sussex School of Archaeology](#) has a full programme of training courses throughout the year.

[www.sussexarchaeology.org](http://www.sussexarchaeology.org)

### [Liss Archaeology](#)

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

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

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

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

For their activities:

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

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

17th January 2016 11am-3pm at Wivelsfield Church Hall

#### **The re-roofing project at Knole - Nathalie Cohen BA MA FSA**

Nathalie is the National Trust's Regional Archaeologist for London and the South East, and is passionate about how Knole's archaeology is going to be an exciting part of the Knole story. The first stage of conserving Knole included repairing more than 5 acres of roof.

#### **Earl of Arundel's Hunting Lodge - Dr. Mark Roberts UCL**

The renowned prehistorian and joint excavator of Boxgrove, and author of 'Fairweather Eden', details his archival research that lead to the identification of the site of the lost Hunting Lodge of the Earls of Arundel at Downley, high above Singleton on the Downs, and the findings of the first two years of excavations on the site of this vanished structure together with earlier periods unearthed there.

21st February 2016 11am-3pm at Wivelsfield Church Hall

#### **Petworth - buildings in the Park- Tom Domett**

Tom is the Regional Consultant Archaeologist for the National Trust and director of the archaeological excavations as part of the Petworth Park Restoration Project. Tom is leading the first serious archaeological investigation to ever take place in Petworth Park. Today people see gentle rolling slopes, tranquil lakes and grand vistas. However, back in the 14th century it was a grand medieval manor house. Tom will discuss the findings of the last 3 years investigations within Petworth Park of the multiplicity of structures both vernacular and polite that have been successively demolished, as the landscape of the Park has evolved over the centuries.

#### **Hearth and Home - Dr Geoffrey Mead**

The vernacular housing of Sussex is heavily influenced by the local materials to build hearth and home. Geoffrey links the availability of these materials to the underlying geology, in this highly acclaimed talk.

Wivelsfield Church Hall, Church Lane (off A2112), RH17 7RD. Car park is on the left next to the Church and the hall is further up on the right.

The talks are open to Members (£2.50 for refreshments) and to the Public (£5 for attendance including refreshments). Please bring a packed lunch for the January & February talks. Reserve places by email: [visits@wealdenbuildings.org.uk](mailto:visits@wealdenbuildings.org.uk) or call our secretary on 01323 482215

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

Subs for 2016 will be due on January 1<sup>st</sup> - £20 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

Please send to:  
Liz Lane,  
Membership Secretary.  
5 Smugglers' Walk  
Goring-by-Sea,  
West Sussex.  
BN12 4DP  
Or see Liz at Lectures.

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)

**WORTHING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
UNDERSTANDING ROMANO-BRITISH ART**

**Dr. Miles Russell  
(Bournemouth University)**

**Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Education Room, Worthing Museum**

The architecture, wall-painting, mosaics and sculpture of the Roman Empire are usually thought to represent the ultimate achievement of the ancient world: masterpieces of realism that would not be surpassed in Europe until the Renaissance. Whilst it is true that Mediterranean art forms are indeed awe-inspiring and magnificent, the art that we see created in Britain at the height of the Roman Empire can be seen as 'ugly' or 'crude' in comparison and, as a consequence, is often neglected, overlooked or simply derided.

This day school will re-examine Romano-British art, especially that represented in mosaics and sculpture, trying to understand where it came from and what it 'meant', to see whether it can really be justified as crude copying of classical prototypes or whether, in reality, the fusion of Roman ideas and Celtic design created something far more exciting, lively and unique.

The cost of the Day Course is £25 for members and £30 for non members including refreshments

If you would like to attend, please contact **Gill Turner** by email: [Ggmturner@aol.com](mailto:Ggmturner@aol.com) or Tel: (01903) 692522