

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

Fieldwork

Preparation for the Slindon Field 20 'dig' – (rearranged from January 14th.)

Anyone who can help on Saturday Feb 4th, please meet at 10am at the Slindon Shed. Parking in the Stable Yard.

We will need some folk to go on up to Field 20 to help the Surveyors, and others to check the kit we will need for the dig, check up the tent, etc.

All welcome.

WAS Field Unit

The excavation on Field 20 at Slindon is planned for March 18th – 26th inclusive. Transport to the field will be organised, parking in the stableyard.

If you are interested, please sign up now.

email Liz: liz.13lane@gmail.com

if possible, with dates you can be there and whether you would like to dig, process Finds, Survey.....

Further details will be sent round nearer the time.

Finds Processing

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

The next dates are:

Thursday, 2nd January - last flint session with Bob

Thursday, 16th January - sorting & recording pottery

Thursday, 2nd February - sorting & recording flint

Thursday, 16th February - preparation for Field 20 excavation

We had a very enjoyable morning at our Christmas party at the finds shed. We started with two short fun quizzes set by Bob followed by too much lovely food and coffee. Nigel then gave us a demonstration of his flintlock musket.

February – March 2017



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.

New Year Walk, Monday January 2nd

Many thanks to Theresa for such a great walk - from the Sanctuary, down Church Hill to Findon and lunch, and (some of us) back....Also thanks to Alex for his commentary, and to Nigel for organising the seating at the Gun!

We learned lots, especially about:

Nancy Price – ‘The Sanctuary Saviour’

Nancy Price was born in 1880 and lived for most of her married life in a cottage called Arcana in Heather Lane, High Salvington. She became a distinguished British stage and screen actress in the early 1900's, as well as a writer and prominent wildlife campaigner. 'Her long and distinguished career in the theatre, her



appearances in Films and Television, her poetry readings, the number of her books – all have combined to make her a well-loved public figure'. Foreword by Sir Norman Birkett (1955) in Heart of a Vagabond: Nancy Price.

She records the changing countryside in the Findon area and laments the loss of the old roads and trackways that she used to walk when she was younger, and is very critical of the new estates, 'I looked at the bungalowoid growth in Findon Valley, where once I walked along the lovely approach to the village, with its avenue of elms and fields which stretched up the Downs'.

Nancy Price could often be seen walking along Honeysuckle Lane with her rucksack on her back and her pet parrot 'Boney' perched on her shoulder. She would walk for miles over the Downs stopping to talk to characters such as gypsies at the Findon Fair, farmers and shepherds, the blacksmith, and miller and would exchange greetings with old Findon inhabitants whom Nancy termed 'simple country folk'. Her great love of the countryside and her fear of losing it to encroaching concrete and tarmac lead her to campaign in the 1930's for a piece of land near her home that could be saved as a public open space 'a sanctuary' for birds and wildlife. The campaign was won through sheer hard work and determination as well as the backing of royalty and some eminent local figures. 'In 1938, Queen Mary backed Nancy's bid to conserve 60 acres of downland from development at High Salvington above Findon'. www.findonvillage.com.



The Sanctuary, which stretches from Honeysuckle Lane to Cote Street, includes grasslands and woods and is the habitat of many wild birds, trees, such as oak, ash and hawthorn, wild flowers and animals. There is a Nancy Price commemorative bench on Honeysuckle Lane, (see photo below), overlooking the fields to Highdown, and on clear days you can see the Isle of Wight in the distance.
Theresa



Lecture Programme

All Lectures are held in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm., except the AGM. Which starts at 7pm.

February 14

Keith Bolton on 'A look back at WAS Field Unit Activities'

The lecture will cover the Field Unit projects undertaken since 1997.

John Pull Lecture

Glass of wine or cup of coffee afterwards

March 14

AGM at 7.00pm followed by Lecture at 7.30pm

Mike Allen on: Why Stonehenge is where it is - and other stories from environmental archaeology

Stonehenge is the most famous archaeological monument in the world. Every archaeologist has their own opinion, but few of us have actually worked in the landscape and within Stonehenge. An appreciation of the wider landscape - its vegetation, and nature, provide strong clues to why communities first chose this area to exploit. Via geoarchaeology we have now identified that nature marked the place where Stonehenge was to be built and human activity commenced there 5000 years before the first ditch and bank were ever considered. This lecture exposes the new archaeology and

archaeological science discoveries and shows how Stonehenge links to sun, sky and earth.

Mike Allen has worked in the Stonehenge landscape since 1983 and has published extensively (in *Stonehenge Environs* by Julian Richards 1990, in *Science in Stonehenge* Ed Cunliffe & Renfrew 1997 and *Stonehenge in its landscape* by Cleal, Montague & Walker 1995), is currently completing the work for the Stonehenge Riverside project and has published a major paper in *Antiquity* 2016. He was a part of the specialist panel advising English Heritage on the new visitor centre.

[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.

[WAS Study Days](#)

[Saturday March 11th](#)

Study day on The Archaeology of the Roman Military led by Edwin Wood who works for the Portable Antiquities Scheme and is the Finds Liaison Officer for Sussex Archaeological Society.

Full details at back of Newsletter.

[Saturday September 30th](#)

A Study Day on The Bronze Age led by David McOmish. More details to follow.

[Saturday November 25th](#)

A Study Morning led by Judie English. Details to follow.

[Annual Journal](#)

Has now been published, and you should have a copy.

Many thanks to all the Contributors and special thanks to Cheryl for Editing.

Articles for the next one will be very well received.

Cheryl's email: hutchincheryl@hotmail.com

[WAS Walk](#)

We are planning a commemorative walk on what would have been Con Ainsworth's 100th birthday on Sunday May 14th. More details in the next Newsletter.

If you would like to contribute to a Newsletter Supplement about Con, with memories or anecdotes or ideas, please contact Liz:

liz.13lane@gmail.com

5 Smugglers' Walk

Goring-by-Sea,

West Sussex.

BN12 4DP

[December Lecture](#)

Judie English gave a very interesting talk on 'What does land organisation tell us about social change in the late prehistoric Sussex'.

Farming started in the Neolithic and initially it was highly productive. There were no bounded field systems at this time except in Ireland (3700-3400 BC). Farming to surplus happened quickly, then monuments started being built. However by 3000BC farming became less productive.

By the Bronze Age there were fully developed field systems. Parcels of land called virgates appeared which measured approximately 20 hectares and were enough to support a family. At the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC the landscape was being enclosed to keep stock either in or out.

Judie talked about Agglomerated enclosures, pre-historic field systems in southern Britain. There appears to have been two phases to these systems, one directly overlying the other: an earlier phase comprising an extensive rectilinear grid and a later phase consisting of smaller areas of aggregated fields. The earlier field systems could have been externally bounded leaving little land unenclosed for open grazing and timber production. These were probably created in the middle of the 2nd millennium. The later fields represent a major reduction in area that was enclosed, (by possibly up to 60%). They would have been used for stock management.

The climate became colder in Late Bronze Age and this may have affected the growing of wheat and how it ripened.

Judie also discussed cross-ridge dykes. These are linear earthworks believed to be prehistoric land boundaries. A typical cross-ridge dyke consists of one or more ditches arranged besides and running parallel with one or more raised banks. A defining characteristic is that it cuts across the width of an upland ridge or the neck of an upland spur and frequently cut across chalk ridges. These are difficult to date but possibly occur during the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. It is thought they were used as possible track ways, territorial limits or internal boundaries. These are one of the few monument types which illustrate how land was divided during this period and they are of national importance.

Patricia Leming

[January Lecture by Jane Russell](#)

'Neolithic Rock Art in Britain and Ireland – sacred or secular works of art, or merely random graffiti?'

Jane Russell is an archaeologist and archaeological illustrator and is well known to WAS members as an organiser of excellent archaeological field trips at home and abroad.

There are over 7000 panels of known Rock art in the British Isles – with 700 of those in the Orkneys. Neolithic people, who created this art, didn't regard their pictograms as ART, but as coded messages with particular meanings, which we can only guess at.

Cup and ring marks are found on vertical Orthostats or on earthfast rocks amid rocky landscapes. Rock art designs are found inside passage tombs or on kerbstones around the outside of tombs such as those at Newgrange in Ireland. This brings into question, who was meant to see this Rock Art? Possibly it was only shamans or priests inside the restricted passages, but the exterior Rock art was for public consumption.

We were shown Rock art from monuments in Ireland dating back to 3,500 BC; the excavated Listoghil cairn at the centre of the Carrowmore cemetery and the Loughcrew passage tomb complex, where in Cairn T, the sunlight hits a radial solar disc on the back stone at the time of the Spring Solstice.

Jane showed the Newgrange passage tomb, which is lit by the sun at the winter solstice, with its roof box and famous stone in front of the passage, engraved with a triple spiral and other rock art carvings. The passages at nearby Knowth and Dowth are lit up at the Spring or Autumn equinoxes. Fourknocks tomb opens out into a round space with many decorated stones with zigzags and diamond shapes, but its entrance is orientated to the north, maybe towards certain star configurations.

There is similar rock art found at sites in Anglesey, and at Westray in Orkney there are decorated stones with double scrolls at the temple site at Brodgar. 700 engravings have been found.

Many panels of Rock art show cup and ring designs. These can be found in Northumberland, and in Scotland. Kilmartin Glen has many outcrops of rock with lots of cup and ring marks, nearby is a stone circle and some Bronze Age cairns. Perhaps the rock art is a route-marker showing the approach to these ceremonial sites. The nearby Nether Largie North Cairn has a large slab with axe heads carvings alongside the usual cup and ring engravings.

The example at Roughting Linn, in Northumberland, is a large domed rock, with a profusion of 'cup and ring' marks over it. Some of the 'cups' are surrounded by 2,3, or 4 rings. There are 8 henges lying near Roughting Linn.

One other form of rock art was mentioned, that is found on chalk blocks in Sussex flint mines. John Pull, at Cissbury flint mine, found chalk blocks with a criss-cross of lines engraved on them, which he likened to field systems found in the area, but might be to do with flint extraction. Sometimes zoomorphic designs were found, such as a deer motif on an antler.

Many thanks to Jane Russell for such an interesting and well illustrated talk.

Sue Brown

[Slindon Wassail](#)

Was attended by several WAS Members. It was an excellent evening, flaming torches, Mummers, beating apple trees, a great bonfire, singing, mulled cider.....Not to be missed in 2018.

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.

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

From Brighton Museum

Love Your Museum

Saturday 11 February

10am-5pm Free admission, drop-in

Celebrate Valentine's Day with free entry for everyone at Brighton Museum! Make a Valentine's card for your loved one, enjoy the pop-up talks, discover love stories from our collections in Museum Lab, and become a *Love Your Museum* explorer.

2017 Sussex Archaeology Symposium

A Sussex School of Archaeology event.

Tickets: £35 including lunch.

Contact Details

- Email: info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk
- Phone: 01323 811785
- Website: www.sussexarchaeology.org

Horsham and District Archaeology Group

On Saturday February 25th, from 10 to 4, we are holding a day school at Easteds Barn, Southwater. The well-loved and respected Simon Stevens, Senior Archaeologist of ASE will be helping us study 'The Archaeology of Death & Commemoration.'

horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Talks start at 7.30pm at the Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton.

Free entry to BHAS Members, non-members £3.00

Friday February 10th Sean Wallis (TVAS)

'Monuments, Massacre and Medieval Expansion in Oxford.

Friday March 10th Paola Ponce (ASE)

'The Human Remains at the Museum of Brighton'

Sunday February 5th - A Geoff Mead Walk -

Henfield Riverside - February 'fill-dyke' should fulfill its promise in this riverbank walk. Meet at car park on Downlink by Cat and Canary pub 10-00am TQ 205163 4 miles 3 hours

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.

A Southwick Society talk

Monday February 13th - A Talk about the River Adur - Speaker Dr Geoff Mead - Venue Southwick Community centre, Garden Room - Cost £2 members or £4 non-members - Start time 7-30pm

USAS Lecture Series 2016/17

All talks start at 7.00pm

(just turn up)

Venue: FULTON BUILDING Lecture Theatre A University of Sussex,
£2 Members, £3 Non-Members

Thursday 23rd February

Finds from the River Thames and a History of Mudlarking Speaker Edwin Wood

Thursday 30th March

Aztec and Maya Archaeology: visiting some key sites in Mexico.

Speaker Professor G. Jeffery Leigh, OBE

For further info, email: admin@usas.org.uk;
www.usas.org.uk

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 February 1st "Princess of Dreams - The life and times of Lydia Yavorska, Princess Bariatinsky" by John and Jeanette Simpson. Lydia Yavorska is buried in St Nicholas' churchyard, Old Shoreham.

Wed. 1 Mar AGM and Discovering the Past at Steyning Museum *Chris Tod*

[Liss Archaeology](#)

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

[Eastbourne Natural History & Archaeological Society](#)

Friday February 10th - Eastbourne Lecture - National Trust Archaeological Projects - Speaker Tom Dommett - Venue St Saviours church Hall, Spencer Road, Eastbourne - Start time 7-30pm
Members free Visitors £2.50

www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk

[Chichester District Archaeology Society](#)

Saturday 18 March 2017 - From Villa to Church, the building stones of Warblington

Study day at Fishbourne Palace and Warblington Church led by David Bone. Cost £25 for CDAS members, £30 for non-members if places are available.

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.cdas.info/Study%20Days.html>

To book a place on either of these courses, contact Pauline Blagden at training@cdas.info

Wednesday 8 March 2017 in the afternoon Guided Walk - LIDAR around Stansted Forest

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

To book a place contact Pauline Blagden at visits@cdas.info

[Wealden Buildings Study Group](#)

19th February 11am – 3pm

Heather Warne on 'The History and development of the Wivelsfield area'

Jeremy Clarke on 'Timber-framed buildings of Wivelsfield'

March 19th 1.30pm – 3pm

Bill Fergie 'A Detailed study on the transitional house of Hampshire'

Meetings held at Wivelsfield Church Hall (RH17 7RD)

Cost £10 for the Study Day, £5 for the March talk, which includes coffee, tea and biscuits. Please bring a packed lunch for the February Study Day.

Reserve places by email:

visits@wealdenbuildings.org.uk or call our secretary on 01323 482215

[Walking into History](#)

Archaeology Walks for 2017 with Alex Vincent. These will resume in June: the first one to Slonk Hill, Shoreham on Monday June 5th. Details will be in the next Newsletter.

[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)

Worthing Archaeological Society

Registered Charity No. 291431

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7pm in the Lecture Theatre at Worthing Library, Richmond Road, Worthing.

A g e n d a

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Chairman's Annual Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Independent Examiner
6. Field Unit Report
7. Election of Officers and Committee, listed below
8. Any other business.

The current Officers and Committee members are standing for re-election.

President	Mr John Mills
Chairman	Mr Keith Bolton
Secretary	Mrs Cheryl Hutchins
Treasurer	Mrs Connie Shirley

Committee members:

Mr Roy Plummer (Life Vice President), Mrs Josephine Thornton (Life Vice President), Mrs Liz Lane (Membership Secretary), Mrs Gill Turner, Dr Jacqueline Lake, Mrs Theresa Griffiths, Mrs Patricia Leming, Mr Andrew Bell (Programme Secretaries) and Ms Amie Friend.

Nominations for Committee Membership should be submitted to Cheryl Hutchins – hutchincheryl@hotmail.com or by post to 15 Queen Street, Littlehampton BN17 6EP before the date of the AGM.

A full set of finance accounts will be made available on the night of the meeting.

The AGM will be followed by a Lecture by Mike Allen on Stonehenge

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ROMAN MILITARY

Saturday, 11TH March 2017 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Education Room, Worthing Museum

**The course will be led by Edwin Wood, Sussex
Finds Liaison Officer**

A day of sessions looking at the invasion and conquest of Britain and the debates surrounding it. This is followed by an examination of the types of finds typically found with comparison to complete reproduction objects to place the artefacts in context. The aim is to better aid in the identification of Roman military artefacts and to increase the understanding and appreciation for these objects. The day will also attempt to place the military into the social context of its time and embed a sometimes misunderstood group back into the everyday society of Roman Britain.

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 **Jacqui Lake** by email jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com or tel: [\(01903\)215671](tel:(01903)215671).